

## ESCWA to move to Beirut in September

BEIRUT (R) — The U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) will move back its permanent headquarters to Beirut next September, the commission's secretary general said on Friday. "There is an initial agreement to move to Beirut next summer during the month of September," ESCWA Secretary General Hazem Al Biblawi told reporters upon his arrival to Beirut airport. ESCWA had moved its main offices to Baghdad in 1982 during the height of Lebanon's 1975-1990 civil war. When Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990, the commission moved to Amman. "The return of ESCWA to Beirut indicates that the international community recognises the return of normal life to Lebanon which is re-emerging as a key centre for the region," he added. Mr. Biblawi was due to meet Lebanon's top political leaders during his one-day visit before returning back to Amman.

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## EU special envoy visits Syria

DAMASCUS (AFP) — Miguel Angel Moratinos, the European Union's special envoy to the Middle East, arrived here Friday on the Syrian leg of a regional tour. Western diplomatic sources said. Mr. Moratinos, the Spanish ambassador to Israel, was scheduled to meet with Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa, the sources said. Before leaving for Damascus, Mr. Moratinos held talks in Israel on Friday with Dore Gold, a political advisor to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. He met Palestinian President Yasser Arafat in Gaza City the previous day. The EU special envoy was appointed in October over the objection of Israel to give a boost to the deadlocked Middle East peace process. Mr. Moratinos is scheduled to travel on to Cairo on Saturday. He is also expected to visit Amman and Beirut before arriving in Washington on Dec. 13.

## King visits UAE today

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein leaves for the United Arab Emirates (UAE) today to meet with UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan and attend celebrations marking the UAE's silver jubilee and the anniversary of Sheikh Zayed's assumption of his constitutional powers. Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti and other officials will accompany the King. A Royal decree was issued on Friday appointing Interior Minister Awad Khleifat to serve as acting defence minister during Mr. Kabariti's absence.

Saturday's visit will be the first visit of the King to the UAE since 1990.

The King returned home on Thursday after a several-day private visit to the United Kingdom. The King was received upon arrival by His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty. Her Royal Highness Princess Taghrid, Royal family members, Prime Minister Kabariti, the acting speaker of the Upper House of Parliament, the Speaker of the Lower House, Cabinet ministers and senior civil and military officials, in addition to British Ambassador to Jordan Peter Hinchcliff.

Also returning with King Hussein were Their Royal Highnesses Princess Basma and Prince Hamzeh and Royal Court Chief Awn Khasawneh.

## 19 killed in latest Algerian massacre

ALGIERS (AFP) — Extremists killed 19 people overnight in a village south of Algiers, the Algerian security services said Friday. It was the second such massacre reported in the past 24 hours. The massacre took place in Benashur, near the city of Blida.

## Libya sends food to Iraq

TUNIS (R) — Libya said a ship loaded with foodstuffs has left the Libyan port of Benghazi en route to sanctions-hit Iraq ahead of the fasting month of Ramadan, the official Libyan news agency JANA reported on Friday. The agency, monitored in Tunis, did not give details but said Libyan officials and the Iraqi envoy in Tripoli saw off the ship.

## Al Azhar chief urges jihad for Jerusalem

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The director of Al Azhar Mosque, the highest authority in Sunni Islam, called Friday for a jihad (holy war) to end Israel's control of Jerusalem. "I am still calling on Muslim masses to launch jihad in all its forms to prevent the Judaisation of Jerusalem and stop aggressions" against the Holy City, Sheikh Mohammad Tantawi told the United Arab Emirates daily Al Itihad. The Palestinians of Jerusalem "need our help... We have a religious and national duty to provide them with everything they need, including weapons. If we do not, then we are not serving our religion," Sheikh Tantawi said. Jews were known for breaking their promises and violating agreements. "Jews are arrogant... they believe they are above all other human races. They have committed injustice against the Prophet Jesus and his mother," Sheikh Tantawi said.

## King, Sahaf discuss situation of Iraqis and implementation of 986

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein on Friday held talks with Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammad Al Sahaf on the situation in Iraq ahead of the resumption of Iraqi oil exports after six years, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

During the meeting, held at the residence of Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti and attended by His Royal Highness Prince Hamzeh, Mr. Kabariti and Iraqi Ambassador to Jordan Nouri Al Weis, the King and Mr. Sahaf discussed "the situation of the Iraqi people as a result of the U.N. sanctions (imposed six years ago) and the mechanism of implementing Resolution 986 that allows Iraq to export oil-for-food," the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

Petra quoted Mr. Sahaf as stressing his country's commitment to implement all U.N. resolutions and voicing hope that Resolution 986 "will be a prelude for

the total lifting of sanctions" imposed on Iraq.

Earlier, Mr. Kabariti, who is also foreign minister, held talks with Mr. Sahaf in a meeting attended by Ambassador Weis and expressed hope that the oil-for-food deal "will partly contribute to alleviating the suffering of the Iraqi people and will pave the way for the total lifting of sanctions," Petra said.

Mr. Sahaf praised the Jordanian role in alleviating the Iraqi people's suffering and stressed the need for further cementing bilateral relations in all scopes, particularly commercial ties, Petra reported.

Mr. Sahaf expressed satisfaction with the outcome of his meeting with Mr. Kabariti and urged concerted efforts to reconcile Arab ranks based on mutual confidence and clear foundation.

Mr. Sahaf arrived in Amman Friday afternoon on his way to Jakarta,

Indonesia, to attend a ministerial meeting of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) which opens on Monday.

Friday's Jordanian-Iraqi talks followed Iraq's announcement that it will begin exporting oil on Tuesday for the first time in more than six years under the oil-for-food deal reached in May between Baghdad and the United Nations.

On Sunday, Prime Minister Kabariti held talks with Iraqi Trade Minister Mohammad Mehdi Saleh about Jordanian-Iraqi trade under the oil-for-food agreement, which allows Iraq to sell \$2 billion worth of oil in six months to finance the purchase of food and medicines for its sanctions-hit people.

Mr. Saleh assured the Jordanian side that Iraq had no intention to reduce the volume of trade with Jordan. On the contrary, he was quoted as saying by Petra,

Iraq wanted to increase its trade with Jordan and will depend on Aqaba as its main port after its own Umm Qais port in the Gulf. Mr. Saleh is expected to pay a return visit to Jordan on Sunday and meet with Mr. Kabariti.

Two Jordanian Cabinet members, Energy Minister Hashem Dabbas and Finance Minister Marwan Awad, will visit Baghdad after the Sunday meeting. A Jordanian business delegation visited Iraq last week and reported upon its return positive outcome of its talks with Iraqi officials and businessmen.

Information Minister Marwan Muasher said Thursday Jordan would continue to supply Iraq with its humanitarian needs.

"We are one of the countries that can supply Iraq with its humanitarian needs on a competitive basis under the U.N. resolution," Dr. Muasher told reporters.

## Iraq: Oil flow to begin Tuesday

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq announced Friday that it would resume oil exports for the first time in six years on Tuesday under the oil-for-food deal with the United Nations.

Iraqi Oil Minister Amer Rashid told the official Iraqi News Agency INA that Iraq would begin exporting oil at midnight Tuesday New York Time (0500 GMT).

INA said Iraq would begin pumping oil "once U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali had presented his final report on the issue to the Security Council, expected at the latest on Monday."

Mr. Rashid said that "oil

experts today (Friday) successfully completed their inspection of metering systems on the Iraqi-Turkish border."

He said the tests of an oil pipeline metering station at Zakho on the Iraqi-Turkish border were the last such tests to be carried on the Iraq-Turkey oil pipeline before Iraq starts pumping oil.

The minister added that "the first oil will arrive at the Iraqi (Gulf) port of Mina Al Bakr or the Turkish port of Ceyhan in a week's time."

In London, oil prices remained firm in response to Iraq's announcement it would rejoin the oil market

next week, with prices holding at above \$24 per barrel.

Under the oil-for-food deal with the United Nations, the first easing of sanctions imposed after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990, Iraq is to be allowed to export two \$2 billion worth of oil every six months to purchase food and medicine for the civilian population.

The deal is to take place under strict international control, with Dutch company Saybolt monitoring the oil exports for the U.N. while Lloyd's of London is to supervise imports of humanitarian goods.

Mr. Rashid said Iraqi oil



Amer Rashid

flowed through the Zakho station for six hours on

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## Senior senator urges quick confirmation of Clinton's nominations to his cabinet

WASHINGTON (AFP) — A senior Republican senator urged colleagues on Friday to confirm President Bill Clinton's new national security team quickly, calling the cabinet nominees distinguished but unoriginal choices.

Mr. Clinton's cabinet nominees, announced Thursday, "are all distinguished public servants... the United States Senate should confirm them as soon as possible," Senator Richard Lugar of Indiana told a news conference.

Noting that three of the

four appointees would move from one senior administration post to another, however, Mr. Lugar added: "Certainly there's no originality here."

He also challenged Mr. Clinton to articulate a strategic foreign policy during his second term, saying the president had not "been sure-footed in most tactical exercises."

"What we're looking for now is a bolder vision," he said. Mr. Clinton on Thursday named U.N. Ambassador Madeleine Albright the first

woman secretary of state, retiring Republican Senator William Cohen as defence secretary and National Security Adviser Anthony Lake as Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) chief.

Deputy National Security Adviser Samuel Berger will move up the ladder to take Mr. Lake's current position. Mr. Cohen, Mr. Albright, and Mr. Lake's appointments require Senate confirmation, but early reactions from Republican leaders of the 100-seat Upper

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Madeleine Albright

## Kabariti weathers bread riots storm, stages skilful comeback

By Salameh Ne'matt  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The developments of the last three months since the bread riots in the south have clearly vindicated His Majesty King Hussein's unwavering support for and confidence in Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti's government.

The versatile premier, who represents a new generation of post-1989 politicians, has not only engineered an unprecedented comeback, but has also built political capital and a momentum to carry him through his reformist agenda. His willingness to take unpopular decisions such as the lifting of bread subsidies, which sparked the

fiercest campaign ever to be directed by the opposition and the popular press against a prime minister, enhanced his reputation as a fearless though controversial reformist whose agenda, he maintains, goes way beyond staying in office. The damage to his popularity caused by the bread riots in August was systematically and gradually offset by a series of well-structured measures aimed at containing the repercussions of the events in the south. These included personally addressing the people (through the media) or visiting them directly to defend and explain his government policies, and an open dialogue with the opposition through a series of meetings he held with

## More challenges lie ahead

the Islamic Action Front and other opposition members. The dialogue expanded to include professional associations and labour unions. And although he at first, except for the Royal support, appeared alone in defending the unpopular lifting of subsidies, his persistence and stamina, together with the success of the cash compensation programme, paid off in the end. Follow up measures such as the Royal pardon for those accused of involvement in the riots in the south (and the general amnesty), the King's release of Leith Shbeilat and finally Kabariti's public apology for Deputy

Nazih Ammarin, closed the chapter on the bread episode and earned the prime minister the reputation of a dynamic survivor with an ear to the ground. The reelection of Lower House of Parliament Speaker Sa'd Hayel Sour and the failure of opposition candidates, sealed the government's comeback. Needless to say, Mr. Kabariti's whirlwind performance left his opponents in and outside Parliament half-paralysed if not totally at a loss to counter his strategy. Suspicious and confused traditional politicians and pundits, including those within his own camp, were no less puzzled.

Until very recently, most seasoned politicians and commentators were openly betting on Mr. Kabariti's imminent exit from office. They thought a repeat of the 1989 then Prime Minister Zeid Rifa'i's resignation was in the cards, and were freely interpreting the King's statements and actions as a sign for an upcoming change. Very few kept faith in the government's endurance and some parliamentarians and politicians went as far as predicting that the government would not even make it to the current four-month parliamentary cycle. Undoubtedly, part of the credit for the government's endurance goes to the failure of the opposition to create a rift between the palace

and the government or to mobilise popular support. Realising that the King was squarely behind Mr. Kabariti, having supported the bread subsidy decision

## NEWS ANALYSIS

and adopted, throughout, the government's version of who were the forces behind the Karak riots, the opposition moved to capitalise on a press report saying that His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan was at odds with Mr. Kabariti. But although the campaign picked up some momentum in the tabloid press and some political circles, it was again undermined by a surprise visit the Crown Prince made to the prime ministry where he met Mr.

Kabariti and appeared on television attending a Cabinet session during the King's absence on a visit to London.

Another dimension in the containment of the Karak events was the Islamic movement which was publicly received credit from the King on three separate occasions for its "responsible" stance in refraining from an escalation that could have fuelled the riots in the south. Although the Islamic Action Front maintained its rhetoric and call for ousting the government after the events, it did not encourage demonstrations and condemned violence and arson against public and private property. The

(Continued on page 7)



His Majesty King Hussein with Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammad Al Sahaf at Mr. Kabariti's residence on Friday (photo by Yousef Allan)

## Ulster University honours Crown Prince Prince Hassan urges focus on refugees as human rights issue

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan has been awarded an honorary doctorate of letters by Ulster University for his work in fostering peace and interfaith relationships, particularly in the Middle East, the Jordan Information Bureau in London said Friday.

The Crown Prince thanked the chancellor of the university, and expressed his highest regard of the university's pioneering work in many fields, particularly in sup-

porting the Initiative on Conflict Resolution and Ethnicity (INCORE), it said. The occasion was attended by Their Royal Highnesses Princess Sarvath and Prince Rashid, it said.

After the ceremony, Crown Prince Hassan, in his capacity as the representative of His Majesty King Hussein abroad, gave a brief interview to the BBC Ireland Radio, in which he said, "the peace process in Northern Ireland and the Middle East are

very different in many respects. Nevertheless, there are common denominators between Ireland and our part of the world, in terms of entrenching a common communal identity and advocating pluralism. The projection of similarities in overarching relationships is the logic that we have to develop, and we must elevate ourselves above the absurd generalisations of judging Islam through acts of terror, as if

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## Israel plans 20,000 new West Bank homes near Jerusalem

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel's housing ministry intends to build some 20,000 new homes in West Bank areas near Jerusalem as part of the right-wing government's drive to boost the Jewish presence in the occupied territories, the weekly newspaper Kol Ha'ir reported Friday.

The weekly, a local Jerusalem publication, printed excerpts from the housing minister's annual construction plan for 1997 which called notably for doubling the size of Maale Adumim, already the biggest settlement suburb of the Holy City with 23,000 residents.

The plan foresees construction of 7,500 housing units and related infrastructure in Maale Adumim, compared to its current size of 5,000 homes, with the

## Arafat and Netanyahu quash report of 3-way Cairo summit

GAZA CITY (AP) — Squashing hopes that a summit is near, Yasser Arafat's office said Friday that the Palestinian leader will only meet Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu once a deal on Hebron is completed.

Prime Minister Netanyahu's spokesman said there was no chance of a meeting between the two leaders over the weekend. "I can tell you there won't be," said David Bar Ilan. "There is nothing to meet about."

Mr. Arafat's spokesman Nabil Abu Rdaneh said the Palestinian leader was "ready to meet with the prime minister at any place or any time, but we have not yet determined when he

is going to meet him."

He said the two leaders should only meet once an agreement on the Hebron redeployment is complete. "President Arafat's position is clear that this meeting must come after successful talks between the Palestinian and Israeli delegations to make such a meeting a fruitful one with positive results," he said.

"The issue of Hebron has not been agreed upon between both sides and there are still problems and some obstacles."

Mr. Arafat is to travel Saturday to Cairo to hold talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. Mr. Bar Ilan said Mr. Netanyahu

(Continued on page 7)



## Qatar accuses Bahrain of torturing suspect

DOHA (R) — Qatar on Friday accused Bahrain of torturing a Qatari spy suspect, dealing a blow to efforts to persuade Bahrain to attend the annual Gulf Arab summit in Doha.

After days of trying to woo Bahrain to attend the summit which opens on Saturday, Qatar issued a statement accusing Bahrain of obtaining a confession by torturing one of two suspects.

It said the espionage trial of the two Qataris, which opened in Bahrain on Wednesday, "set a dangerous precedent in Gulf ties."

The statement said any verdicts by the court, which adjourned until Dec. 14, "would be considered void as they are passed under duress in violation of international norms."

Bahrain has said it will not attend the Doha summit due to Qatar's "unfriendly attitude" but delegates said some Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states were conducting last-minute mediation efforts to reverse Bahrain's decision.

"It is not us who have put an end to mediation. They (Bahrain) started," said a Qatari official. "The timing of the case is illogical."

Since the formation of the GCC in 1981 by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and small oil producers Oman and Bahrain no state had boycotted a summit.

Qatar walked out of last year's closing session in Muscat to protest against

the method by which a new GCC secretary general was appointed.

Tiny Bahrain and Qatar, which controls the world's third largest natural gas reserves, are locked in a bitter dispute since the 1930s over a cluster of Manama-held Gulf islands and sandbanks, potentially rich in oil and gas.

Bahrain wants Qatar to withdraw its case before the International Court of Justice in favour of a GCC resolution under Saudi Arabian mediation.

The six states have always been keen on maintaining a public image of accord despite many differences over achieving their declared goal of forming a common market, close internal security coordination and integration of defences in the face of regional powers Iraq and Iran.

GCC Secretary-General Jameel Al Hujailan told Qatar Radio on Thursday night that inter-GCC border disputes were the only obstacles facing the alliance.

Some members, including Qatar which had a brief military clash with Bahrain in the mid-1980s, warn that the disputes are "time bombs."

In recent years GCC states, which control almost half of the world's oil reserves, have moved to resolve their border disputes but failed to meet the target of ending them by last December.

## 28 Kurds massacred near border, UNHCR reports

GENEVA (AFP) — A paramilitary group massacred 28 Iraqi Kurds in mid-October along the Iranian-Turkish border, the U.N. refugee agency said Friday.

U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) spokeswoman Christiane Berthiaume said this was based on testimony from two survivors.

The refugees had entered Iran after fleeing fighting in northern Iraq, mainly in the town of Sulaimaniyah, and were headed to Turkey, she said. The massacre happened on the night of October 14 when a group of 30 refugees were preparing to cross the border in three groups, according to the survivors' accounts.

"At this moment they were killed. It is not very clear on what side of the border it happened, Iranian or Turkish. The UNHCR is demanding an explanation from the Turkish government," Ms. Berthiaume said.

Some 75,000 Iraqi Kurds took refuge in Iran in September, most fleeing a conflict between rival factions in northern Iraq. The UNHCR in November said Iran had forced more than 50,000 of the refugees back home by threatening to withhold food and exposing them to freezing conditions.



'SECURITY' IN HEBRON: An Israeli border policeman (left) watches over Palestinians as they enter the Ibrahim Mosque, which is holy to Muslims and Jews, in Hebron in the West Bank for Friday prayers amid a continued deadlock in Israeli-Palestinian negotiations over an Israeli deployment in the town (Reuters photo)

## Schwarzkopf doubts chemicals made U.S. soldiers sick in Gulf

NEW YORK (Agencies) — General H. Norman Schwarzkopf, commander of American troops in the 1991 Gulf war, said he did not believe that Iraqi chemical weapons had anything to do with the mysterious health problems reported by thousands of those troops.

While the U.S. government acknowledges that some Gulf war soldiers are stricken with serious health problems, including digestive problems and fatigue, they have not tied the ailments to Iraqi chemical weapons. Researchers so far have found no clear link to such weapons.

Gen. Schwarzkopf said that when he first heard of the ailments he attributed it to immunisations the troops had been given to counteract possible biological attacks using botulism.

Experts later told him the vaccines, which had not been formally licensed by the government, were not the cause of the so-called Gulf war syndrome.

"I think there's a huge amount of misinformation," he said. "This Gulf war syndrome thing is truly unfortunate."

Retired General Colin Powell, who was chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff during the Gulf war, also believes no Gulf war veteran was exposed to chemical and biological weapons.

The missing entries from computer disks that had once contained the chemical warfare logs.

"I more than anybody else wish to hell we could find the logs," the general is quoted as saying.

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## Police deployed in force in Iranian city after unrest

TEHRAN (AFP) — Riot police were out in force in the western Iranian city of Kermanshah on Friday following several days of Sunni Muslim unrest that broke out after the death of a religious leader, residents said.

They said anti-riot special units and revolutionary guards sent to the city from Tehran were stationed "every few metres" in the streets and that an army helicopter was hovering overhead.

"The city is calm and under control, under a kind of curfew," one resident said, asking not to be named.

A police colonel was reportedly killed on Wednesday in clashes between security forces and Sunni protesters during a memorial service for a Sunni religious leader, Mulla Mohammad Rabii.

Iran's main armed opposition group, in a statement received in Nicosia, said dozens of protesters have been killed and hundreds wounded in clashes since Monday in Kermanshah province.

(The Mujahadeen-e-Khalq said hundreds of people have been arrested.)

The protesters from around Kermanshah province charged that Rabii was assassinated, while the government in the mainly Shiite Muslim country says he died of a heart attack.

Rabii, 64, was a prayer leader for Kermanshah's Shafai mosque.

Witnesses said at least one protester was killed and

scores wounded in the fighting, which erupted after the demonstrators tried to prevent a pro-government religious leader attending the memorial service.

They threw stones at his car and shouted "death to terrorism."

Iran's official media confirmed the unrest, but reported only arrests without giving a figure. State radio condemned the protests as an attempt to "sow discord" among Iran's people.

According to observers, the Kermanshah clashes were the worst Sunni unrest in Iran since the 1979 Islamic revolution which brought the Shiite clergy to power.

Iran's population is predominantly Shiite, but there are Sunni communities living in the western and eastern regions of the country, including Kermanshah and Kurdistan provinces — both situated along the border with Iraq.

Residents said Rabii, a former employee of the state radio-television's Kurdish language service, was "well respected" by both Shiites and Sunnis in Kermanshah.

He had no background of criticism against the government.

But his Sunni followers became suspicious when his body was reportedly found in a car on a side road with his shirt torn apart. The coroner's office testified after an examination that there were no evidence he was murdered.

## U.S. may modify mission in N. Iraq

ANKARA (Agencies) — Turkey is likely to renew the mandate for the U.S.-led mercy mission for Kurds in northern Iraq, but with a change in its main objectives and its name, diplomatic sources said Friday.

The mandate of "Operation Provide Comfort" expires on Dec. 31, but the operation will continue under a new name, likely to be "Northern Watch", the sources said.

Talks are underway between Turkey and the United States, and also between different political parties in Turkey, to define a new formula acceptable to all, the sources said.

The Turkish parliament will make the final decision on renewing the mandate.

"It's obviously a new operation," a Western diplomatic source told AFP. "The name is not that important. The old one has attracted some publicity in Turkey. I guess it would not be a bad idea to change it. We should have no problem with that."

Meanwhile, the United States was continuing to evacuate an estimated 4,500 Iraqis who worked for U.S. agencies in northern Iraq before a military incursion into the Kurdish zone by President Saddam Hussein's troops in August.

A first contingent of some 350 evacuees left Friday for the U.S. territory of Guam, an official said.

The group, consisting of Kurds and other northern Iraqi minority groups, boarded a DC-9 jet after an identity check, said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

They eventually will be resettled in the United States.

They are part of a total of 5,000 northern Iraqis and their dependents who worked for U.S.-backed agencies. The United States decided to help evacuate them last month, fearing they might be in danger from Iraqi security forces.

A total of 836 evacuees have crossed into Turkey from northern Iraq since the beginning of last week, the official said. The entire evacuation is expected to be completed this week.

More than 2,700 Iraqi Kurds were evacuated in September and October after President Saddam regained influence in the Kurdish-controlled north of the country in August, following fighting between two rival Iraqi groups. They were mostly members of the Iraqi National Congress.

Most of them have been resettled in the United States.

## Greece releases Palestinian convict

ATHENS (R) — A Palestinian convicted of bombing an airliner and killing a teenager in 1982 left Greece on Thursday on being freed from prison early, for good behaviour after serving 8 1/2 years.

The United States reacted angrily to the court decision this week to free Rashid early.

His sentence had been reduced to 15 years in 1993.

Police said Mohammad Rashid was whisked from Korydallos maximum security prison just outside Athens to the airport where he boarded a regular Olympic Airways flight to Cairo where he was to transit to Tunis.

Rashid's destination was the former Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) headquarters in Tunis.

Rashid, 46, was sentenced to 18 years in prison by a Greek court in 1992 after being convicted of premeditated murder in the mid-air bombing of a Pan American airliner in 1982.

A Japanese teenager was killed and 15 other passengers were wounded in the blast over the Pacific Ocean but the plane managed to land safely in Hawaii.

"We believe that convicted terrorists should serve their (full) term," a U.S. embassy spokesman said on Wednesday. Washington had been expected to put pressure on Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis to reverse the early parole.

Rashid was arrested in 1988 at Athens airport on a U.S. tipoff but Greece refused to extradite the self-avowed PLO officer. Rashid steadfastly denied involvement in the bombing and said he was the victim of mistaken identity.

Greece agreed eventually to put Rashid on trial in Athens for the bombing. It became a test for Washington on whether Athens was committed to joining its Western allies to fight guerrilla activities.

"We are happy this injustice is finally over," an official of the PLO's diplomatic representation in Athens said on Wednesday. "Our justice minister talked with the Greek justice minister to arrange the details of the expulsion."

The parole court had ruled that Rashid could be freed after serving 8-1/2 years, with time in pre-trial detention

counted towards his term, but said he must be expelled immediately from Greece.

Rashid wanted to go to the new Palestinian entity, comprising self-rule areas in the West Bank and Gaza, but the PLO official said this would be difficult because the borders were controlled by the Israelis.

"If he tries to go to Palestine he may be picked up by the (Israeli) security forces and handed over to the Americans," the official said.

The United States accuses Rashid of belonging to the May 15 Palestinian guerrilla group and being an accomplished student of master Palestinian bombmaker Abu Ibrahim.

Three U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agents testified against Rashid during the trial, held at Korydallos prison.

The agents said they had ample evidence against Rashid for a bomb planted on a Pan American plane in Brazil in 1982 and a mid-air bomb blast on a TWA airliner approaching Athens in 1986 which killed four U.S. citizens.

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

### PROGRAMME TWO

14:05 The Adventures of Mickey and Donald

14:30 .....Circus

15:00 Doc. — La France Aux Mille Villages

15:30 .....Fete des Bebes

16:00 .....Sports — Gillette

16:30 .....Chris Cross

17:00 .....News Flash

17:30 .....Futures

17:45 .....Drama — Blue Heelers

18:00 .....Serie — Jack

19:00 .....Le Journal

19:15 .....Magazine — Ziva

19:30 .....News Headlines

19:35 Comedy — Something Wilder

20:00 .....Doc. — Gardens of the World

20:30 .....Prism

21:10 .....Lois and Clarke

22:00 .....News in English

22:25 .....Best Seller

23:15 .....Feature Film

### PRAYER TIMES

04:55 .....Fajr

06:17 .....(Sunrise) Dhuhr

11:27 .....Dhuhr

14:13 .....Asr

16:36 .....Maghreb

17:58 .....Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swiffield, Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church Tel. 632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 634590

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661656

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Terrasanta Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 652826

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Amman International Church Tel. 827126

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457

The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology

Relative cold weather conditions will prevail with skies cloudy to partly cloudy. Rainfall is expected at intervals and winds westerly to northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, skies will be partly cloudy, winds northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min/Max. temp. Amman .....08/15

Aqaba .....13/23

Deserts .....06/16

Jordan Valley .....13/22

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 15, Aqaba 24 Humidity readings: Amman 68 per cent, Aqaba 47 per cent.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN: Dr. Ghaleb Zawaidh .....736011

Dr. Jihad Sammour .....765018

Dr. Hisham Kan'an .....790286

Dr. Awni Hawamdeh .....832350

Firas pharmacy .....661912

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December 7, 1996  
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# Home News

## JIEC awards tenders to two firms for feasibility study on industrial estates

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Industrial Estates Corporation (JIEC) Friday announced that it has awarded a tender to a consortium of two local firms to conduct a feasibility study for the establishment of an industrial city in the southern town of Karak.

The tender marks the first step towards the creation of a new industrial city which will be established on an area of 1,865 dunums Mr. Hindawi said, reaffirming that the JIEC will announce a tender for the construction of the industrial city once initial designs and documents have been completed.

He also said that sufficient funds for the creation of the industrial city as well as its infrastructure service and factory buildings have been allocated by the corporation and approved by the government.

The JIEC earlier announced plans for the establishment of a series of industrial estates in different governorates to fulfil the private sector's growing demand for factories.

## Prime minister urges facilitation of land purchase procedures

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti has urged the director of the Lands and Survey Department to facilitate procedures for non-Jordanian Arab nationals to purchase land in Jordan for various development projects.



Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti Thursday receives members of the Council of Presidents of Jordanian Professional Associations to discuss a unified professional allowance (Petra photo)

## Petra in danger of natural collapse, geologist warns; conservation group attempts to remedy situation

By Christina Schlegel  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Petra, considered the Kingdom's most attractive and certainly most profitable tourist site, is in danger of ultimately collapsing if not properly conserved and restored, Project Director of the Conservation and Restoration Center in Petra (CARCIP), Geologist Helge Fischer Wednesday warned in a lecture at the Goethe-Institut.

The project costs, which are estimated to total approximately JD 1.5 million each for the first and second phase have been underwritten by the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation.

This bilateral project was implemented by the GTZ with the Jordanian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities acting as executing agency and with the support of the

tion and restoration centre in Petra, which is slated to be operated by Jordanian specialists and staff after the implementation of a training programme.

The project is currently in its second phase, focusing on the actual execution of conservation and restoration work as well as developing an appropriate infrastructure, the supply and installation of essen-



The superlatives of the ancient city of Petra are currently under threat of erosion due to such natural menaces as earthquakes, water, humidity and wind.

Although, he could not confirm one participant's assertion that Petra facades annually lose one centimetre of their superlatives, Dr. Fischer urgently called for the immediate halt to their "accelerated decay."

"Earthquakes, water, humidity and to a lesser extent wind have caused, and are causing, severe damage to the monoliths," he admonished.

Groundwater penetrating the stones evaporates, the salt crystallises and the stone is destroyed, Dr. Fischer explained.

In an interview with the Jordan Times Thursday, he called for the conservation and restoration of the sites as otherwise a level of deterioration will be soon reached in which preservation will no longer be possible.

The expanding tourism sector in Jordan, he added, "does not only demand new hotels, parking lots and road construction but also — and especially — a more careful handling of ancient sites, which will otherwise vanish and no longer be of use for the country."

The Jordanian-German Project, also called the "Petra Stone Preservation Project" (PSPPP), was initiated three years ago and aims at the slowing of the deterioration process as well as the reduction of possible further decay.

The German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ), a governmental organisation, implemented the project to establish a conserva-

## Man fights extradition order to U.S., describes it as 'unconstitutional'

By Rana Hussein  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The attorney of a Jordanian man, wanted for arson in the United States and whose extradition had been ordered, Friday contested the verdict to a higher court calling the extradition order unconstitutional.

Defence Attorney Mohammad Ismael, who is contesting the case of Bassam Faisal Qassem, said that he appealed the case to the Court of Cassation charging that the extradition treaty signed between the U.S. and Jordan in March of 1995 was unlawful.

"This treaty did not follow due legal procedures to be formally declared as law; that is, it should first be endorsed by Parliament before it is applied across the board," Mr. Ismael said.

Mr. Qassem, 43, was ordered detained by the Amman Magistrate Court on Nov. 13, 1996 after the court determined that sufficient evidence existed to convict him of setting a restaurant ablaze in the United States and ordered that he be extradited there.

But upon returning to the U.S. a few months later, Mr. Qassem was forbidden from leaving the country and later learned that the U.S. government had asked for his extradition on charges of deliberately setting the restaurant on fire.

"My client was in the U.S. for three years, residing in the same locale and no legal action was taken against him nor was he notified by American authorities about the charges," the attorney maintained.

According to Mr. Ismael, the U.S. authorities had submitted a file containing a fingerprint of his client, taken from a gasoline can by investigators following the incident, and he decried the findings as "not enough evidence to indict my client."

"My client was employed at the restaurant and it would not be odd to find his fingerprints in the restaurant," he argued.

The extradition treaty was signed between the U.S. and Jordan in March 1995 after four months of negotiations. The signing of the treaty came after the U.S. government asked the Jordanian government to extradite Mohammad Ismael Abequa, 40, a naturalised American citizen, who fled to Jordan with his two children after killing his 40-year-old wife, Nihal in her apartment in New Jersey on July 4, 1994.

Mr. Abequa was arrested on July 20, 1995 and tried in Jordan due to the then absence of such a treaty between the two countries.

He was convicted of murdering his wife by the Criminal Court in July 1995 and was sentenced to a 15 year prison term.

Jordan Bar Association (JBA) Secretary Mazen Irsheidat confirmed that, in his opinion, the treaty violates the Jordanian Constitution as Parliament did not endorse it and stated that the association will intervene on Mr. Qassem's behalf.

## Court battle ends in favour of former JSTTA president

By Tanya Habjouqa  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A court battle between the Ministry of Tourism and Lam'i Haddadin, former president of the Jordan Society of Tourism and Travel Agents (JSTTA), has ended in Mr. Haddadin's favour.

starting capital of JD 50,000 and insurance for incoming tourists.

The association asserted that these rules would shut down small agencies who could not afford such high rates as well as drive tourist services costs higher and thereby make Jordan less competitive.

The JSTTA won its case on July 15 and two days later Lam'i Haddadin was fired from his position after allegations from the Ministry of Tourism that he had no right to sue as he was not a travel agency owner

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## Rwandan Hutus massacred in Zaire; refugees on move

GOMA, Zaire (AFP) — The mass graves of at least 80 massacred Rwandan Hutu refugees have been found in eastern Zaire's rebel-held Goma region, witnesses who went to the scene said Friday.

They told AFP that the refugees had been killed several weeks ago. Survivors said that the slaughter was carried out by the mainly Tutsi Zairean rebels who have seized control of much of eastern Zaire in the past month.

Meanwhile, between 100,000 and 400,000 Rwandan Hutu refugees were heading Friday deeper westwards into Zaire towards the town of Kisangani, which is in government hands, an aid worker there told AFP in Nairobi.

Three graves containing the bodies of about 30 men, women and children were seen north of Mugunga, nine kilometres west of Goma. Another, where about 50 people were buried, was found at Katala, 60 kilometres to the north.

Survivors said there were many more such graves, lying in zones to which the rebels had barred access with roadblocks.

The U.S. State Department announced Thursday that the rebels had allowed human rights monitors into the region and the U.S. government expressed serious

concern about reported violations.

When the rebels were refusing until recently to allow aid workers and journalists out of Goma and into the surrounding region, they were known to be fighting armed Hutu extremists, who had long terrorised their compatriots among the refugees.

Some of the refugees trekking away from the rebel-held territory on the border with Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi, are very sick. Nicolas Louis of Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF - Doctors Without Borders) said by telephone.

"Malaria is decimating people," he said, adding that diarrhoea was widespread among the refugees, who lack food and drinking water.

"Our idea is to get as far as we can down the road (towards the refugees) to set up health centres and distribution points for water and high-protein biscuits," he declared.

"The situation is very calm in Kisangani," the capital of upper Zaire province, Louis said, dismissing reports that rebels had seized the town.

He said that some Zairean soldiers who fled rebel advances had caused havoc in Kisangani, but added that "the Zairean army then made a major effort to res-

store security."

Aid agencies in the town, including MSF, the U.N. Children's Fund and Action Contre La Faim (Action Against Hunger), were making preparations to help the refugees, who were expected to arrive in about 10 days.

The "human tide" of people trekking westwards was reported by residents of Walikale, in the Goma region about 500 kilometres from Kisangani, said Louis, who was in daily contact with health workers there and in the town of Lubutu, half-way between Walikale and Kisangani.

Goma was one of the hub towns in eastern Zaire, along with Bukavu and Uvira further south, for vast camps which housed hundreds of thousands of Hutu refugees.

They fled their homeland in 1994 when a Tutsi rebel army seized power following the massacre of more than half a million people. Those killed were mostly Tutsis and moderate Hutus.

Some 600,000 Hutus have returned to Rwanda since the Zairean rebels began their uprising, but many still remain in Zaire, cut off from all humanitarian assistance for more than a month.

Among those trying to make their way towards Kisangani are soldiers of

the Rwandan former army and Hutu extremist militiamen, who are accused of the genocide in Rwanda and of holding hostage the "ordinary" refugees in Zaire.

Mr. Louis said that troops of the Zairean elite special presidential division were getting ready to leave Kisangani and "make the Kisangani-Lubutu Road secure."

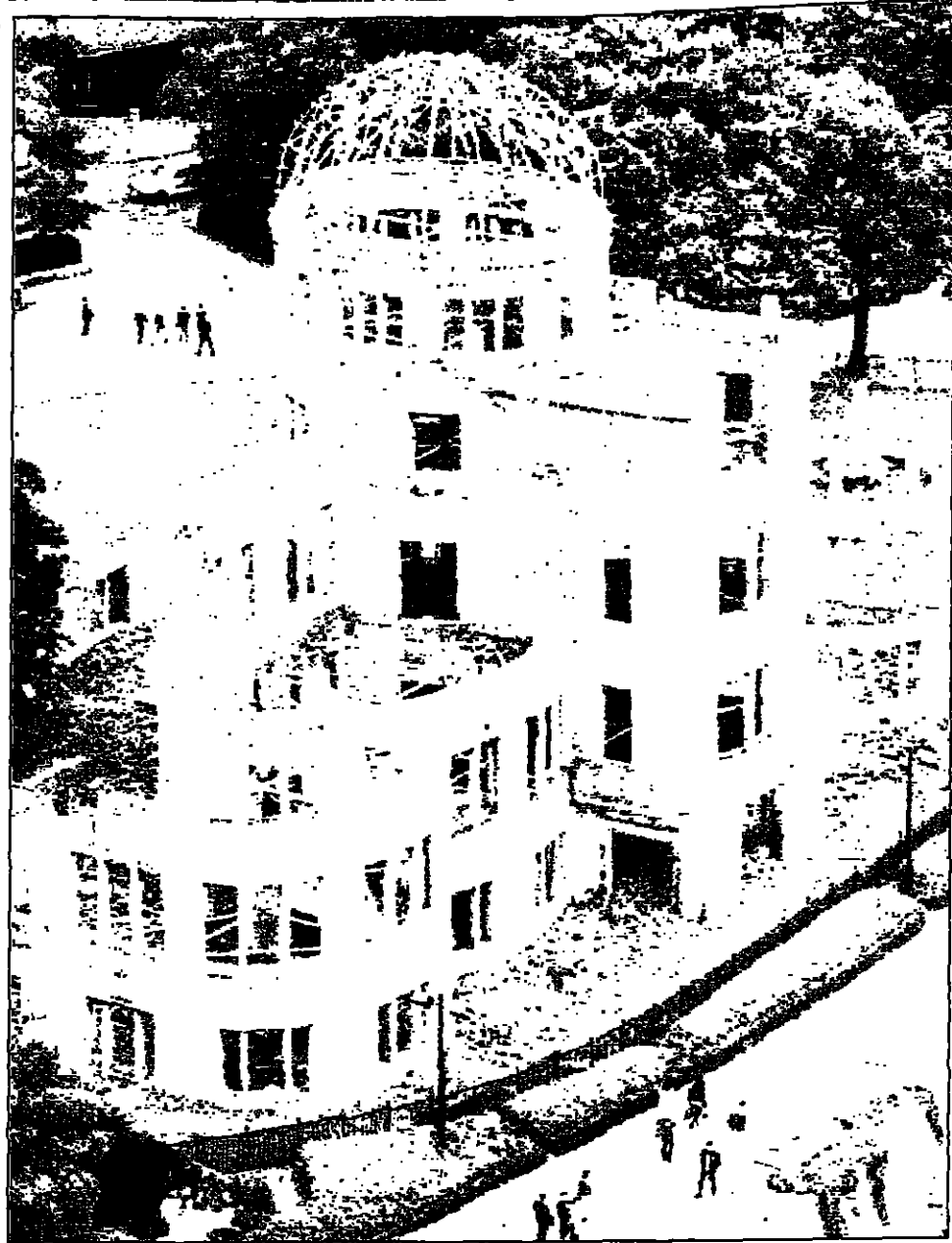
He added that Walikale was also still in government hands and had not been attacked by the rebels.

Aid workers in Zaire have expressed ever-growing frustration at the failure of the first elements of a Canadian-led multinational force sent to the great lakes region to help the refugees to do anything.

The Kinshasa government, which accuses Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi of helping the Zairean rebels to set up a "Tutsi empire" extending into Zaire, has repeatedly called for international intervention.

The commander of the foreign force, General Maurice Baril, has made initial contacts with the leaders of the rebels to assess the refugee's plight and consider ways of helping them, but even a mooted airdrop of food has not taken place.

Relief workers have said that foreign intervention is necessary on the ground if food and medical aid is to get to the right people.



The A-Bomb Dome in Hiroshima, a building symbolising the world's first atomic bombing, was named a world heritage site despite opposition from the United States. The Japanese Foreign Ministry said Friday. The ministry said that the World Heritage Committee approved the decision at a meeting in Merida, Mexico (Reuters photo)

## UNESCO designates 35 sites in world heritage list

MERIDA, Mexico (R) — The A-bomb dome in Hiroshima was the most controversial of 35 sites added Thursday to UNESCO's world heritage list that included a barrier reef in Belize, the historic centre of Salzburg, and France's Canal Du Midi.

Belize's barrier reef, the Kamchatka volcanoes and Lake Baikal in Russia, Niger's "W" national park and the Okapi Wildlife Reserve in Zaire were five areas of natural beauty that UNESCO said deserved special protection.

In addition, it picked 30 cultural sites, including the Hiroshima peace memorial that symbolises the world's first atomic bombing, that was selected despite U.S. opposition.

"It is a stark and powerful symbol of the achievement of world peace for more than half a century following the unleashing of the

most destructive force ever created by mankind," the world heritage committee of UNESCO, which was meeting in the Mexican city of Merida, said in a news release.

On Wednesday, U.S. state department spokesman Nicholas Burns said Washington did not believe war-related sites were within the scope of the convention.

In addition to the Atomic bomb memorial, the committee picked sites from 21 other countries, including the pre-Columbian settlement of Uxmal on Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula, and the historic centre of Queretaro, Mexico.

Other historic centres included Salzburg, in Austria, Pienza, in Italy, and Oporto, in Portugal. In Africa, it favoured four 11th and 12th century towns founded as trading and religious centres in Mauritania known as the ancient Ksour of Ou-

dane, Chinguetti, Tichitt and Oualata.

In China it picked the Lushan National Park, which it described as a spiritual centre. Elsewhere it picked monasteries and religious sites from Armenia, Hungary, Ireland, Sweden, Italy, Germany and Japan.

In addition, four previously designated world heritage sites of natural beauty were identified as being "in danger."

Of the sites in danger, the Simen Park in Ethiopia is losing its Walia Ibex and other mammals the Ichkeul Park in Tunisia has been endangered by the nearby construction of dams the Garamba Park in Zaire has seen its white rhinoceros population decline and the Rio Platano Biosphere in Honduras is "severely threatened" by an expanding agricultural frontier and human population, the committee said.

## Burma students march out of campus

RANGOON (R) — About 200 Burmese students marched briefly from troubled Yangon Institute of Technology (YIT) in northern Rangoon Friday towards the University of Yangon six kilometres away, and returned to their campus, witnesses said.

Seven truckloads of armed riot police and three fire engines were on standby at one of the junctions near the institute.

There were no clashes. "They are now back in the YIT campus," an institute official who declined to be identified told Reuters by telephone.

One of two roads leading to the University of Yangon from the institute had been closed by authorities.

But about 300 university students were still gathered outside the gates of their campus, witnesses said. They were singing peacefully.

On Monday and Tuesday, students from the institute

and the university launched protests against what they said was unfair handling by police of a brawl between some of their colleagues and restaurant owners in October.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi was restricted to her home by the military government to prevent her from being drawn into the protests. She was allowed to move freely Thursday.

The protest culminated at dawn Tuesday with several hundred students being detained briefly by police in central Rangoon.

The street protests were the biggest seen in the capital since the student-led pro-democracy demonstrations of September 1988 when the junta crushed the uprising. Thousands were killed or imprisoned.

Earlier Friday some of the students, who were held briefly by police during the protests earlier this week, said they were still dissatis-

fied with the military government.

They told Reuters they were unhappy that the ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) had not heeded their calls for the right to organise independent unions on campus.

"We still want government answers to our demands. We want police punishment to be published in newspapers," one student said.

Meanwhile, the remains of three U.S. servicemen missing in action from World War II were formally handed over by Burma to the U.S. government Friday, over five years after Rangoon first offered to return them.

U.S. charge d'affaires Kent Wiedemann accepted parts of a wrecked C47 Dakota transport plane that crashed over northern Burma over fifty years ago from deputy intelligence chief Colonel Kyaw Win, expressing the "very deep thanks" of the U.S. government.

## U.K. Labour increases poll lead

LONDON (AFP) — The opposition Labour Party has extended its opinion poll lead over the ruling Conservatives by 10 percentage points, according to a survey published Friday.

A Gallup poll for the Daily Telegraph put Labour on 59 per cent, four points up on last month and 37 points ahead of the Tories, who fell six points to 22 per cent. The liberal democrats were

up one point on 12 per cent.

The survey comes after a month which has seen a disappointing reception for Chancellor Kenneth Clarke's final budget before the upcoming general election and renewed Tory turmoil over European economic and monetary union.

The figures for the Gallup survey are based on sample of 1,072 electors. In a poll published Thurs-

day by the weekly European newspaper, a majority of Britain's voters — almost two-thirds — said they would vote against a single currency if a referendum were held now.

The findings of the Mori survey suggest there will also soon be a majority for quitting the European Union altogether. Already, 40 per cent are in favour of leaving, according to the poll.

## Russia vows full backing for Chechen elections

GROZNY, Russia (R) — Kremlin Security Council Secretary Ivan Rybkin pledged Moscow's full support Thursday for elections being held in break-away Chechnya next month.

Mr. Rybkin, on a one-day visit to the war-scarred north Caucasus region, said after meeting separatist negotiator Akhmed Zakayev that Moscow would do its utmost to help Chechnya organise voting for a president and local parliament on Jan. 27.

"We discussed how to enable free and fair democratic elections," he told reporters at Grozny airport, which is due to open to civilian flights Friday after its wartime closure.

In another sign the Muslim rebels have stamped their mark on Chechnya after ousting the Russian army, the airport has lost its Russian name, severity (northern). It is now Sheikh Mansour named after an 18th-century cleric who spread Islam among the Chechens.

Mr. Rybkin said Moscow particularly wanted to help organise voting among some 350,000 refugees who fled the fighting and are now scattered across Russia. The population of Chechnya was about one million before the war started in December 1994.

"We talked about how to enable those people who are outside their little Chechen motherland to vote," said Mr. Rybkin.

He said the head of the separatists' central electoral commission assured him Grozny was capable of organising the vote by Jan. 27, despite having to start from scratch.

Special voting stations are being set up in Russian towns and cities with high concentrations of Chechen refugees.

Most voter rolls were destroyed in the 21-month long war that followed Moscow's military assault on Chechnya's secessionist rulers. Electoral officials admit the task of organising the vote is herculean, but say it will be done.

Zakayev, an actor turned successful commander who is now Mr. Rybkin's counterpart in negotiations, welcomed Russia's role.

"The elections are the internal affair of the Chechen republic but we are not indifferent to the position and the opinions of the Russian side," he said.

"We want our elections to be recognised as legal and free."

The separatists have also called for international observers to monitor the voting. The last elections in the region, last December, were little more than a charade to install a Moscow-backed administration in Grozny that opposed the rebels.

Russia and Chechnya have signed an agreement keeping the tiny southern region within Russia for five years before its final status is worked out. The separatist leadership makes no secret that it sees this as no more than a face-saving measure for Moscow before it is finally set free.

Tsarist armies colonised the rugged region in the 19th century but the fiercely independent Chechens never fully acquiesced to their Moscow overlords.

Having been defeated on the battlefield, Russia has now done a complete about-face, trading a lethal club for a juicy carrot to try and woo Chechnya to stay in the federation.

Some Russian politicians have suggested making the region a free economic zone and using leverage from lucrative oil pipelines that cross Chechnya to steer it away from secession.

Russian state media have dropped their wartime anti-Chechen rhetoric.

## Italian police raid Di Pietro's homes

MILAN (R) — Tax police Friday raided the homes and offices of former public works minister and ex-magistrate Antonio Di Pietro, a folk hero in Italy for his assault on public corruption, media reported.

RAI radio and news agencies said some 300 police were involved in the raids, ordered by magistrates in Brescia, northern Italy.

Mr. Di Pietro, 46, resigned from government on Nov. 14 after coming under investigation by the Brescia pool over alleged irregularities in the way he conducted his inquiries when he himself was a magistrate.

The radio and Italian news agencies said the raids, totalling about 50 and of

which around 10 were carried out in Rome, also involved homes and offices of business acquaintances of Mr. Di Pietro.

Mr. Di Pietro was the star investigator of the elite "clean hands" anti-graft team in Milan, which from 1992 launched a series of probes which led to the downfall of the country's political establishment and involved hundreds of businessmen.

The probes uncovered widespread payments of bribes by businesses to political parties in exchange for government contracts. Mr. Di Pietro was seen as the symbol of this anti-graft assault and public opinion polls still show him to be one of the most popular

men in Italy.

Mr. Di Pietro, who belongs to no political party, quit the Milan magistrature in December 1994, shortly after the pcc placed then-Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi under investigation, amid rumours he had been forced out.

He was the target of an earlier probe by Brescia magistrates into allegations of corruption and of profiting from holding a public office. All charges against him were dropped in April shortly before being named to the cabinet.

Mr. Di Pietro was the first minister to resign from the seven-month-old centre-left cabinet of Prime Minister Romano Prodi.

## Air force supply base attacked in Tajikistan

DUSHANBE (R) — Unidentified attackers fired shots and threw grenades in an assault at a Russian air force supply base near the Tajik capital's airport, a top military official said Thursday.

The gunmen launched Wednesday's attack from at least three points towards helicopters and a fuel storage area, said Viktor Zavarzin, commander of Commonwealth of Independent States' peacekeeping forces in the former Soviet republic.

RIA news agency said the attack lasted about an hour and said the Russians had returned fire. It said no Russians were hurt and their equipment was not damaged. It was not clear if any of the gunmen had been killed.

In a letter to the United Nations' representative in Tajikistan, a copy of which was obtained by Reuters, Com. Zavarzin said he thought the attack was aimed at dragging peacekeeping forces into the Tajik civil conflict.

Earlier this week, Islamist opposition guerrillas surrounded a battalion of Tajik government troops at an airport outside the disputed town of Garm.

As the siege continued Thursday, they gave the government troops an ultimatum to lay down their arms and gain safe passage from the site, or face destruction. Interfax news agency said.

In a sign of the growing tension, the United Nations called on all its military observers in Tajikistan Thursday to return to Dushanbe as a security measure. Interfax said.

Russia has troops in Tajikistan under an agreement to help patrol the Tajik frontier.

Tajik government troops and Islamist guerrillas have fought a bitter civil war for nearly five years. Tens of thousands of people have been killed and many more have been made homeless among the 5.7 million population.

The recent attacks preceded planned peace talks between Tajik President Imomali Rakhmonov and opposition leader Sayid Abdullo Nuri Dec. 9.

## 4th attack reported on N. Ireland Catholic targets in 24 hours

BELFAST (AFP) — A Catholic school was hit by a firebomb late Thursday night in the fourth such attack on Catholic targets in 24 hours, police said Friday.

The fire in St Patrick's School spread through two classrooms before being put out.

All four attacks occurred in the area near a Catholic church which has frequently been the site of Protestant demonstrations since last summer.

Protestants were angered by the refusal of the Catholic community in a neighbouring village to let a Protestant march pass through.

Police reinforced patrols Thursday in Ballymena, after unidentified assailants hurled firebombs at St Mary's Primary School and two Catholic homes early in the day.

There were no casualties, but one family barely escaped tragedy when a firebomb landed in their living room and set fire to the ground floor while they were sleeping in their

rooms.

St Mary's had to be closed after suffering heavy material damage.

Both schools are not far from a little Catholic church in Harryville, where clashes broke out at the weekend after some 500 Protestant demonstrators confronted police.

Several police officers were injured and one person was arrested.

Demonstrators intend to gather there again during Saturday evening mass, which for several weeks has been guarded by armed police officers.

A Protestant church in Cookstown also was the target of a firebomb attack Thursday.

Meanwhile, Ireland's Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams has challenged the Australian government's decision to refuse him an entry visa because of his "intimate association" with the Irish Republican Army (IRA), his lawyer said Friday.

Mr. Adams' Australian lawyer Terry Fisher told

Reuters that Mr. Adams had applied to the federal court Thursday to review the ban by Australian Immigration Minister Philip Ruddock.

Mr. Ruddock refused Mr. Adams a business visa on Nov. 3 on the grounds that he was not a person of good character. Mr. Adams had applied in October for a visa to enter Australia to promote his controversial autobiography Before The Dawn.

Documents lodged with the court say there was no evidence to justify the ban, that it involved an error of law and was an improper exercise of power under the country's migration act.

"We are particularly concerned to see what documents the minister used to base his decision upon," said Mr. Fisher, who is a member of Australian Aid for Ireland which raises funds for the families of political prisoners in Ireland.

Mr. Fisher said the case would not be heard until early 1997.

## German police free hostage in Munich

MUNICH, Germany (R) — Police overpowered a man who held a bank employee hostage for more than seven hours Thursday as he tried to get into a getaway car, witnesses said.

They said a smoke bomb appeared to have gone off either inside or near the car when police moved in.

A police spokesman said the standoff had ended without bloodshed and both hostage and hostage-taker were examined on the spot by a doctor. Neither were

injured.

Police had brought money and a silver-coloured getaway car to the front of the bank, as demanded by the hostage-taker.

The man, who wore a white ski mask, entered the bank in Munich's Grossharden District at around 8.30 a.m. (0730 GMT) and took a 24-year-old male bank employee as well as two other people hostage. The other two later managed to flee the bank.

Police had sealed off the

area shortly after the incident began, almost exactly a year after Munich police had to deal with two hostage dramas within 24 hours.

They first stormed a bank where an armed man was holding three people hostage for a ransom of four million marks (\$2.8 million). All the captives and the hostage-taker were unharmed.

Hours later they shot dead a man who threatened to kill his girlfriend and a policeman.







## Jordan Times

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### The basics are missing

UNDER PRESSURE from Jordanian businessmen, unionists and political activists an Israeli trade exhibition which was to be held in Amman this month has been postponed till January. It is likely that the fair will be put off again, if not completely cancelled, if reasons that forced its postponement persist.

Two years after the signing of the peace treaty with Israel, opposition for normalisation of ties with the former enemy is still running high, probably even higher than immediately after the signing of the peace treaty. But not many are surprised that this is the case. After all, the Israeli prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, is expanding settlements, confiscating Arab lands and violating the accords his country has signed with the Palestinians. The state of the peace is not at all well.

It is no secret that many people were opposed to the establishment of normal ties with Israel when the two countries decided to end the state of war between them. That was a natural position. A peace treaty could not change a collective culture which remembers Israelis as invaders and usurpers of rights who inflicted a great deal of suffering on the region and its people. The challenge was to change these perceptions, to give people reason to believe that peace between Arabs and Israelis can happen and to encourage human interaction in an environment in which Israel would act to redress the injustice that it has inflicted on Arabs, especially Palestinians, for decades.

That was a challenge that Israel failed to meet. As a result, many Jordanians remain opposed to dealing with Israel. Their stand on holding the Israeli fair in Amman should force a reassessment among the Israeli leadership. If Mr. Netanyahu is genuinely interested in building real peace between his country and its Arab neighbours, he should ask himself why that peace has not developed between his people and Jordanians whose leadership went beyond what was domestically accepted at times to encourage normalisation.

Mr. Netanyahu will not be short of answers. Jordanians want a comprehensive peace whose benefits all peoples of the region would feel. Jordanians will find it very difficult to deal with Israelis as long as they refuse to give the Palestinians their rights. Jordanians want a peace that will include Syria and Lebanon. They want an end to Israel's settlements that pose a great threat to Jordan itself. They want Israel to keep its commitments.

If Israel takes real measures that prove its seriousness in seeking peace on all Arab-Israeli fronts, Jordanians and other Arabs would find reason to put the past behind. Before that is done, they will not.

Mr. Netanyahu cannot keep beating the drums of war on the Palestinian, Syrian and Lebanese fronts and expect Jordanians to ring the bells of peace.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE GOVERNMENT has announced its neutrality regarding the Israeli trade fair due to be held in Amman next month, but the public has the right to accept or reject the fair which is designed as a debut for Israeli economic invasion of the Arab markets, said Ahmad Mislleh, a writer for Al Ra'i. Politics and economics are closely linked and indeed they constitute two faces of the same coin, with developments in one having a direct impact on the other, according to the writer. He said Jordanians have a national duty to boycott such a fair and refuse to accept Israeli products at a time when Jordanian goods do not find their way to the Israeli or Palestinian markets due to Israel's obstacles and the blockade it has been imposing on the Palestinian territories. Furthermore, Israel has been obstructing the path of peace, rejecting the Palestinian demands for legitimate rights, consolidating its hold on the Arab territories, building Jewish settlements on confiscated Arab lands and perpetuating its repression against the Palestinians, the writer added. The writer said that the event planned for next month would serve as a litmus test for the Jordanians in their peaceful resistance of repression and injustice.

FURTHER ESCALATING tension in the region, the Israeli government has been accusing Syria of preparing for war against the Jewish state and has been amassing forces along its borders with Syria and Lebanon, said Mohammad Kawash, a writer for Al Dustour. At the same time, the Israelis are organising drills on how to protect themselves in case of chemical or nuclear warfare, claiming that the Arabs intend to launch such a war, while the Arabs, including Syria and Lebanon, have been genuinely seeking the help of the world community to reestablish peace in the region based on U.N. resolutions and the concepts and principles laid at the 1991 Madrid peace conference, according to the writer. Israel has been obstructing all paths leading to a just and durable settlement based on the exchange of land for peace, in conformity with U.N. Security Council Resolution 242, he added. Having witnessed Israel's open hostility towards the Arabs in general and the Palestinians in particular, and having heard the clear words of Benjamin Netanyahu that he would hold on to all occupied Arab lands, the Arab leaders have no alternative but to take steps towards coordinating their stands and pooling their potential to confront the Israeli challenge.

### Jordanian Perspective

## Mideast needs to integrate in the 'new world'

By Dr. Musa Keilani

HIS ROYAL Highness Crown Prince Hassan's call to bring the "old Middle East into the new world" was the most refreshing initiative the region has seen in its recent history. It was an admission that the Middle East, despite the huge wealth of some of its countries, remains very much backward when seen against the backdrop of the advances that many other regions have made.

Quite simply, bringing the Middle East into the new world means bringing international idioms and standards into the conduct of affairs in the region, as the Crown Prince pointed out. It implies fundamental changes in the way peoples and governments of the region think and behave in all spheres of life.

Now what does that mean? Is there anything wrong with the way we think and behave? Obviously yes. Had we acted in time to change the way things are around us, the Middle East would not have been exposed to the influences that these days, both directly and indirectly, dictate our way of life and the political and economic course that is tailor-made to suit the interests of external powers rather than go in a direction that would help improve the living standards of our people. In fact, the oil wealth of some in our region, coupled with the human resources that others

have, should and could have made the Middle East one of the most powerful blocs on the international scene. Instead, what we find today is a disintegrated state of affairs, with each of the players turning away from the inevitability of change.

The truth is also that many of the countries and peoples of the Middle East seemed to either be happy with the status quo or resigned to accepting that changes appeared, at least on the surface, to be impossible if only because of the political systems that control our lives.

For decades, we in the Arab World have been tied down to our traditional thinking and way of life as well as governance. To a large extent, Jordan has always sought to break from the outdated norms and practices that tied it down along the march towards development and progress. It has indeed set the lead and an example for the rest of the region, whether in terms of democratisation or political reforms, but the Kingdom also has to go a long way ahead.

However, the Crown Prince's message, as made clear in last week's Global Panel 1996 in the Hague, highlighted the awareness in Jordan, both in the leadership and people, that unless the Middle East moves forward in discarding the shackles of traditional and conventional thoughts the

region would be left behind much further. What it also implies is that Jordan, being part of the region, cannot simply press forward on its own while its neighbours remain static. Furthermore, setting precedents for the region in terms of bringing about basic changes in our way of life is somewhat risky in a regional context. It warrants that we have to move forward carefully, with measured steps, while encouraging all around us to look more closely at the advantages of upgrading themselves to global thinking and international patterns of behaviour based on respect for each other's interests and internal affairs.

Shedding traditional and conventional ways of thinking does not necessarily mean that we have to abandon our rich culture and heritage. On the contrary, we could work very much along with our culture and heritage while bringing about changes in our way of thinking and approach to national, regional and international developments.

Of course, it is a delicate approach at the beginning, and there could be a lot of opposition from within, particularly from people and groups who might fear that their interests would be undermined by the changes. It is an inevitable hurdle that should not be allowed to stand in our way.

## Some journalists risk their lives to do the job

By Jim Hoagland

NEW YORK — Not even his highly developed sense of the absurd could have prepared Mohammad Amin for the strange death he met last Saturday. The photo-journalist was among at least 127 people killed when an airliner ran out of fuel over the Comoros and crashed after three incoherent hijackers ordered the pilot to fly to Australia.

It was the kind of story Mr. Amin should have been covering, not getting involved in. But then, rules never did mean much to the man known as Mo throughout East Africa.

You probably did not know his name. But you knew his images. A familiar figure on Third World battlefields where he worked as a television cameraman and photographer, he

played an essential role in drawing global attention to famine in Ethiopia in the 1980s.

The footage that changed history almost did not make it on the air. Producers in New York did not want to tie up expensive satellite time with a story on starvation in Africa. But a producer in London, overwhelmed by the horror that Mr. Amin had captured, fed it onto the satellite anyway, and the images changed the network's mind.

A crisis in the Horn of Africa was not complete without his filmed record. He was almost killed in covering the overthrow of Ethiopia's Marxist regime in 1991 when an ammunition dump blew up near him and tore off an arm.

I lived in Nairobi in the early 1970s and came to know Mr. Amin then. In

many respects, he was representative of the engaging, enterprising East African Asian minority that vigorously but uncomfortably occupied the middle ground between the African majority and the British settlers in the colonial era.

The "Asians" were the shopkeepers, small restaurant owners, clerks, plumbers and skilled artisans of colonial East Africa. Most were squeezed out of their businesses after independence.

But a business career did not interest Mr. Amin. Taking pictures in dangerous circumstances and places did.

Africa became a big, dangerous story. Like much of the Third World, it also became inhospitable territory for Western-style investigative reporting.

The dedication of jour-

nals like Mr. Amin, or Zambia's Lucy Sichone, or Turkey's Ayse Onal, can simultaneously inspire admiration and shame in American journalists, who risk little more than loss of access to insiders for criticising their government.

Lucy Sichone, a columnist with The Post, a Lusaka daily, had to go into hiding with her 3-month-old daughter this year to avoid arrest and a jail sentence that would have destroyed her family. A widow with four children, she continued to write while in hiding. Eventually, international support for her led the Zambian government to drop its trumped-up charges.

Her story caused normally hard-bitten U.S. media types to go misty-eyed less than a month ago when she was honoured in New York

by the International Women's Media Foundation.

Mr. Onal, who was shot and wounded for exposing corruption in Turkey, and Said Ramadan of Sudan, who has faced harassment, assaults and threats for criticising the Islamic fundamentalist government in Khartoum, were also given Courage in Journalism awards at that ceremony.

Two weeks ago, four other awards for similar courage and commitment were given to Third World newsmen by the Committee to Protect Journalists. One recipient, Ocaik Isik Yurcu of Turkey, had the perfect excuse for not attending the ceremony: He is in prison for his coverage of human rights abuses.

What connects these cases? A consistent mix of bravery, stubbornness and

an awareness by these journalists that what they do makes an enormous difference in their societies, where power, relationship between rulers and ruled are still in flux and the nature of politics is still being defined.

Journalism as practised in America, for all its flaws, has long been the global ideal. But the media in

America are increasingly dominated by commercial and entertainment values focused on conquering or seducing markets. Today it is the work of Mohammad Amin, Lucy Sichone and many others abroad that serves as inspiration and challenge to their American colleagues.

The Washington Post

### THE WEEK IN PRINT

## Holding of an Israeli trade fair meets with grassroots opposition

REVIEWED BY ELIA NASRALLAH

THE LOCAL press last week covered the controversy surrounding the planned Israeli trade fair in Jordan, due next month, the predicaments of the peace process, the oil-for-food agreement between the U.N. and Iraq and domestic affairs.

The government should not be involved in the issue of accepting or rejecting the idea of an Israeli trade exhibition, and the Jordanian public, with all its political groups and unions, can and should reach its own decision regarding this sensitive issue, said Sultan Hattab, a writer for Al Ra'i.

Jordan is a democracy, its people have all the right to decide on the exhibition and the political forces in the country should express the public sentiments towards such an event, he added.

Those who oppose the holding of the fair should try to win the man in the street's backing for their stand and so guarantee that Jordanian citizens will boycott the exhibition, he said.

The writer said that since the organisation of exhibitions has been provided for in the Jordan-Israel peace treaty, the government would be embarrassed to officially reject the request for holding the fair since that would be a violation of the treaty with the Jewish state.

The public outcry over the planned Israeli trade exhibition reflects the general public's views that stand against Israel's practices in the occupied Arab lands and stems from the conviction that Israel is not inclined to have peace with the Arabs and does not contemplate withdrawal from the occupied Arab lands, said Taher Adwan, a writer for Al Dustour.

The peace which the Israeli leaders had promised the Arabs two

years ago following the Jewish state's accords with the Palestinians is out of reach now in light of the Israeli government's illegal practices against the Palestinians and its obstruction of the implementation of transport and trade agreements between Jordan and Palestine, said the writer.

The people of Jordan can no more be deceived by words uttered by the present government of Israel and its leaders as they witness continued repression, occupation and starvation of the Palestinians, which, said the writer, prompts them to reject the idea of having normal relations with the Jewish state.

It is impossible for the Jordanian public to accept the idea of an Israeli trade fair in Amman at a time when the Israeli government beats the drums of war with the Arabs, said Mahmoud Rimawi, a writer for Al Ra'i.

In clear defiance of the feelings and the rights of the Palestinian people, the Israelis are building more settlements on Arab lands, declaring that they cannot repatriate the refugees, maintaining their blockade on the Palestinian territories and pursuing repressive acts against the Palestinians, he said.

The writer said the trade exhibition is doomed because Israel hopes, through such an event, to benefit from trade with the Arab side at a time when its government continues to block trade between Jordan and the Palestinians as implemented in the agreements drawn up between Jordan, Palestine and the Jewish state.

The writer said the organisers of this exhibition would be wiser to replace it with trade fairs for Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Egypt and other Arab countries, with which Jordan maintains strong economic ties and which deal with Jordan on equal footing and respect for

mutual interests.

The concerned government authorities should prevent the planned Israeli trade fair and take measures to protect the national economy, demanded Mohammad Daoud, a writer for Al Dustour.

The Israelis are clearly trying to find their way into the Jordanian and other Arab countries' markets without opening the door for Jordan to market its products in Israel or the Israeli-held Arab territories, he said.

There is not one single reason, political or economy-related, that justifies the organisation of such an exhibition in Amman and the organisers of the exhibition ought to be pressured into scrapping the idea altogether in view of the growing public opposition, said the writer.

It is not only because Israel blocks the entry of Jordanian products into the Palestinians lands that we reject its exhibition, said the writer, but normalisation with Israel should be based on progress in the peace process, as demanded by the Cairo Arab summit meeting's resolutions of last June.

Israel is as much in need of peace as the Arab countries are because only in a peaceful climate can progress and prosperity be achieved, said Al Aswaj daily commenting on the present Israeli government's attitude.

Observers can clearly see that the Israelis are delaying the implementation of agreements with the Palestinians and dragging their feet over a peace settlement with Lebanon and Syria, which suggests that the Jewish state is totally opposed to peace with the Arab states and prefers to maintain the no-war, no-peace situation in the Middle East, said the paper.

As the Arab parties genuinely want peace with Israel, the Jewish state should seize this opportu-

nity and try to meet them half way, especially, added the paper, since the world community is now shifting its backing to the Arabs in general and the Palestinians in particular as it sees in these parties a genuine desire to end hostilities and achieve development to arrive at prosperity.

Sultan Hattab stressed that the Arabs have only themselves to blame for the failure of their quest to regain their rights and their usurped lands.

The Arabs appeal to the world for help instead of relying on their intrinsic power to regain their rights while the Israelis go ahead with consolidating their hold on the lands of three Arab countries occupied since 1967, said the writer.

The more the Arabs are demanding, with words only, that Israel give them back their lands, the more Israel becomes adamant on its position, he noted.

As long as the Arab states are in disarray, they cannot do anything to address the situation; and as long as the Arab governments hold on to their differences among themselves, there can be no hope for them to secure their rights, warned the writer.

He said the Arab states should not waste any more time with rhetoric and speeches but should realise that the world community would not come to their help if they failed to help themselves first.

The oil-for-food agreement between the U.N. and Iraq will no doubt help alleviate the sufferings of the Iraqi people and is a step in the right direction as it might lead to a total lifting of the embargo, according to Mohammad Barhoumeh, a writer for Al Ra'i.

At the same time, the deal is bound to benefit Jordan's economy in view of the Iraqi government's recent announcement that Jordan will be a main sup-

plier to help meet the Iraqi needs once the deal has been put into force, he said.

The world community's pressure, and that from within the United States, on the Clinton administration to ease the pressure on the Iraqi people is bound to have beneficial results not only on Iraq but also Iraq's neighbours which have been hard hit by the sanctions imposed on the Iraqi nation after the occupation of Kuwait in 1990.

Commenting on Jordanian state universities' recently reported plans to increase the tuition fees, a writer for Al Dustour said that these universities should seek government subsidy instead since the majority of students cannot afford to pay increased fees.

Mohammad Daoud said

that the increase in fees will adversely affect thousands of students and increase the burden on their families. The government should follow the example of the neighbouring Arab states in shouldering the cost of higher education for students who pay nominal fees only, he said.

Universities should seek government subsidies and adopt an austerity programme to save funds as well, he suggested. The government can seek additional funds and contributions from major firms which always have an interest in financing the training of people with higher qualifications who can contribute to their success and the country's progress.

### LETTERS

#### Beware of pollution

To the Editor:

THE RECYCLING programme is a very serious problem that must be taken seriously by any government. In case of Jordan, however, the main issue is not the government, but the people.

We must be aware of the problems associated with pollution and their impact on our lives as individuals and as a society. The problem of pollution can be solved only by the people, not by governments, organisations or any other sort of grouping.

People should be willing to help clean up the environment and be willing to, for example, put the soft drink aluminium cans in the proper basket.

If people become aware of the problems of pollution and are willing to do something about it, I think the government will be more than happy to install recycling centres throughout the country and initiate "clean up" programmes for the environment.

Mohammad J. Nasr,  
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The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.



## Ulster University honours Crown Prince

(Continued from page 1)

one can judge Christianity by using the same absurd yardstick of Christianist terrorism. We in the Middle East have become accustomed to hearing outsiders tell us how to solve our problems, or what we ought to do in the future. I will therefore not presume to offer any well-intentioned advice for Northern Ireland.

The Crown Prince's personal involvement, in promoting inter-faith dialogue among the three Abrahamic faiths, as the main component of the peace-building process, was highlighted during the Crown Prince's participation in the seminar held at Ulster University's Institute of Conflict Resolution and Ethnicity, also his books (Christianity in the Arab World), and (Palestinian Self-Determination — A Study of the West Bank and the Gaza

Strip) as well as his participation in the publication (Winning the Human Race) have been cited as major contributions to the Initiative's field of study.

"The close of superpower confrontation has been accompanied by the resurgence of nationalism, ethnic separatism, and exclusionary politics, where ethnic conflict has become a common denominator of many of today's refugee problems," the Crown Prince said.

"The number of internally displaced persons now exceeds the number of officially-defined refugees. Yet refugee law and international awareness lag behind the facts on the ground. Indeed, it seems that the very word 'refugee' is no longer politically correct in certain circumstances. Issues of mass migration must be viewed first and foremost as human rights issues. The alterna-

tive is to dehumanise and bureaucratise very real, massive and terrifying human suffering."

The Crown Prince added: "We in Jordan are doing everything in our power to reverse the legacy of blood and hatred that has so poisoned our region in this century. The Middle East peace process has had a chequered history. We have witnessed as many setbacks as breakthroughs. That being so, we believe it is the over-riding responsibility of leaders to transcend the vicissitudes of day-to-day events." He called for close cooperation between the University of Ulster and the relevant Jordanian institutions.

During the visit Princess Sarvath participated in the seminar discussions on the development role of education, held by the staff members of the University of Ulster.

## Arafat and Netanyahu quash report of 3-way Cairo summit

(Continued from page 1)

would not travel to Cairo for a three-way summit. He accused the Palestinians of backtracking in ongoing negotiations to iron out a Hebron deal.

"They are again reopening the agreements and they are now trying to insert Egyptian presence in the negotiations," Mr. Bar Ilan said. "If anything, they have again indicated they may be retreating from matters that have already been concluded."

Israel and the Palestinians have spent months negotiating a troop pullout from Hebron, the last West Bank city under Israeli control.

Israel was to have withdrawn troops from 80 per cent of the city in March but delayed the pullout after a series of suicide bombings.

The withdrawal was further delayed by Mr. Netanyahu's May election victory. The new prime minister asked to renegotiate security arrangements for the 420 Jewish settlers who live in Hebron among 130,000 Palestinians.

Earlier this week, Mr. Netanyahu said the time had come for him to meet Mr. Arafat to try and resolve the remaining problems preventing a Hebron redeployment.

In a statement issued after its weekly meeting Friday, the Israeli cabinet said that a Hebron deal could be completed in "a meeting on the political level, unless the other side raises new obstacles at the last minute."

"The real question at this stage is whether the Palestinian side is willing to reach an agreement," the statement said.

Mr. Netanyahu told ministers that he has a clear outlook on the final status negotiations with the Palestinians that would "guarantee the vital interests of the state of Israel."

Final status negotiations are expected to tackle the most sensitive issues in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict such as the status of Jerusalem and the future of the 144 Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Negotiations are to be completed by May 1999.

## Biharis give up hope of going to Pakistan

By Anis Ahmed Reuter



DHAKA — Nearly 400,000 Bihari Muslims, stranded in squalid Bangladeshi camps since the former Pakistan split in two in 1971, seem to have abandoned hopes that Islamabad will give them homes.

Driven by this realisation, the Biharis have set up a "committee for rehabilitation of non-Bengalis in Bangladesh," and started distributing forms to Biharis housed in 66 camps across the country to apply for Bangladeshi citizenship.

The Biharis migrated to then East Pakistan from India's Bihar state after British rule ended in the subcontinent in 1947.

Bangladesh's founding father, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, had offered them the choice between staying put and going back to Pakistan when East Pakistan emerged as an independent country.

The Biharis, apparently driven by a guilty conscience because they helped the Pakistani army in the war and in the massacre of Bengali civilians, had overwhelmingly chosen the second option, leaving their fate to the mercy of Islamabad.

Hopes rest on Mujib's daughter Sheikh Hasina who has taken over as prime minister of Bangladesh; the Biharis feel she will give them a chance to correct their past mistakes.

The Biharis speak Urdu, the language of Pakistan rather than the Bengali spoken in Bangladesh.

About 380,000 Biharis were stranded in then East Pakistan at the end of the civil war when Pakistani troops surrendered on Dec. 16, 1971.

Nearly 127,000 of them were resettled in Pakistan in the early 1970s but the rest have since been living in refugee camps.

In 1992 Islamabad agreed to take back 3,000 Bihari families but only 321 families were repatriated before the process stopped following the removal of then Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

The number waiting has now swelled to about

400,000 while hopes have dwindled, said Iqbal Hossain, secretary general of the rehabilitation committee.

"Pakistan is too busy with its internal turmoil and we are now convinced that it has no time to think about us," said Shahed Iqbal, joint secretary of the committee.

"We have lived in Bangladesh for 25 years our children have adopted Bengali culture. Many also speak Bengali. We don't feel the necessity any more to go to Pakistan," he told Reuters.

"We are the ones in the world who have spent longest years in refugee camps. We don't want to be forgotten any more. Pakistan is an alien land to us," Mr. Iqbal said.

Applications committee President I.H. Siddiky said over 2,200 families had opted in writing to become Bangladeshi citizens in just one week after the committee started distributing application forms.

"We believe 80 per cent of Bihari community members in Bangladesh or even more will agree to become citizens in this country," he said.

Other committee executives said they had already taken up the issue with Bangladeshi authorities and would push it further when all the applications were in hand.

"We are very hopeful. We have realised our mistake... And we want to correct it," said community member S.I.G. Murteza, Bangladesh officials,

however, declined to comment.

Bangladesh is already overcrowded with nearly 120 million people, half of them living below the poverty line. Nearly 15 million are unemployed and a third of the rest are only partially employed.

But Mr. Murteza said the Biharis would not be too much of a burden to Bangladesh.

"All our community members are skilled in various fields. The women are expert in weaving intricately designed and costly saris and making handicrafts."

"The men are engaged in a range of work from driving rickshaws to factory jobs. They can support themselves financially," he said.

The committee leaders say the Biharis want the right to leave the camps, have some free land to build their homes and facilities for their children to study, and health care.

"Given the citizenship and equal rights, we will in fact be able to contribute to the Bangladesh economy significantly," said Mr. Murteza, who works in a South Korean firm in Bangladesh.

"Not only I but many others have managed good work and business," he said as men and women queued up outside the committee's office at Dhaka's Mirpur district to submit their applications.

"We don't know how long it may take for us to pursue the Bangladesh government... (But) no more clamouring to go to Pakistan. Enough is enough."

## Kabariti weathers bread riots storm

(Continued from page 1)

Islamic Action Front, however, did not reap political gains from its recognised role in the episode, although Mr. Kabariti hinted at a possible future inclusion of Islamists into his government. Press reports in local newspapers hinting the government was considering early elections and the possible inclusion of the Islamic movement into the government served to show that Mr. Kabariti was no lame duck prime minister and that he was still capable of taking initiatives. That press leak also split the Islamic movement between hardliners who rejected any compromise with Kabariti's government, and pragmatists who were in favour of an accommodation and sharing of power. The hardliners prevailed. A statement by Islamist deputy Bassam Emoush, in which he described Mr. Kabariti as "a man of initiatives" and welcomed the idea of joining the government, was swiftly rejected by the IAF. This threw the ball once more into the opposition's court and weakened, if not killed, its call for the resignation of the government.

Another factor in favour of the government was Mr. Kabariti's ability to keep his team of ministers united during the crisis. His reaction to minister of agriculture, the leftist deputy, Mustapha Shneikar's dissent and declared opposition to the

lifting of subsidies showed no sign of panic on his part. The issue was swiftly and shrewdly handled by allowing Mr. Shneikar to appease his constituency through issuing a statement articulating his position without him resigning his post. As such, the opposition was unable to create dissent within the Cabinet. In the Lower House of Parliament, the opposition could barely bring a handful of centrist deputies to cross the lines to its side while the government kept active lobbying in the house to prevent serious dissent.

In retrospect, the government's overall approach was a successful exercise in the use of democratic tools. In retrospect, however, the dissolution of the House's extraordinary session after the riots (although the House was already paralysed by the opposition's boycott of its sessions) now appears more like an overreaction if not totally unnecessary one. Such was also the very angry tone against the opposition at the time of the unrest considering the violence's limited scope and the mainstream opposition's generally democratic approach, though volatile and unpredictable at times. On the foreign policy level, the King's tough stance vis-a-vis the Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's dragging of his feet on implementing agreements signed by the previous Israeli administration was also met with satisfaction on the popular level at home.

The government's augmentation of that stance, combining it with an even further rapprochement with the Palestinian National Authority (the King's and the prime minister's visits to Jericho) have also contributed to, among other things, easing consternation and relaxing the local Jordanian/Palestinian scene aggravated by Israeli policies.

The scale of the reception accorded to Mr. Kabariti in Zarqa last week, where an estimated 20,000 people came out to cheer him, represented a vote of confidence in the government's policy, particularly its policies on the peace process and the stalemate on the Palestinian track, considering that a large part of the Zarqa population is made of Palestinian refugees. Other fronts that helped ease popular concerns relate to the general improvement in Jordan's relations with Arab Gulf states and especially the improvement of ties with Iraq. But while foreign policy appears on the track, continued economic pressures exacerbated by a chronic unemployment problem, a reform-resistant bureaucracy, a backward electoral law and ineffective political parties and state-run media will continue to pose massive challenges for this and any government. The list of reform-demanding issues is very long, and the burden, though a collective responsibility, should be shouldered first by the executive authority.

## Iraq: Oil flow to begin Tuesday

(Continued from page 1)

Thursday as part of a test carried out by Saybolt.

The Security Council is awaiting a green light from Mr. Ghali once Saybolt reports that the Zakho metering station has been repaired to international standards.

Mr. Rashid said Iraq had reached agreement with several international companies to sell the oil, and added that "other agreements will be signed in the coming days."

He said that "priority in the signing of agreements will be given to companies from countries who adopted a favourable position towards Iraq during the embargo."

"Contracts are ready and have received the green light from the U.N., we have nothing left to negotiate, letters of credit are ready and prices have been fixed," Mr. Rashid added.

He said that demand for the oil was high, but that the export quantity was fixed at 650,000 barrels per day.

Delegations from the French company ELF and Japan's Mitsubishi were in Baghdad Thursday to "wrap up" contracts, and Total said Tuesday that it had already agreed to buy 30,000 barrels per day of Iraqi oil.

All contracts must be submitted to a committee of four international experts at U.N. headquarters in New York to ensure they comply with the terms of the oil-for-food deal and its pricing mechanism. They must then receive final approval from the U.N. sanctions committee.

The oil-for-food deal, implemented under U.N. Resolution 986, is the first easing of the punitive economic sanctions imposed on Iraq after its invasion of Kuwait in August 1990 which have devastated the Iraqi economy.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa said he looked forward to working with Ms. Albright. Mr. Musa said he hoped the new administration would remain an honest broker in the peace talks, Egypt's official Middle East News Agency said.

tion. But in comments to reporters at the U.N., U.S. Ambassador Edward Gnehm said that Iraq's refusal to transfer missile parts to New York would not lead to Washington attempting to prevent the resumption of Iraqi oil exports.

Asked whether the missile issue would prevent Iraqi oil from flowing this week, Mr. Gnehm responded: "No."

Iraqi authorities last month suddenly refused permission for the transfer to New York for analysis of more than 70 parts, including engines, from an Iraqi missile site, after allowing roughly 70 others to be moved to UNSCOM's Baghdad monitoring centre.

The remaining Scud parts are under U.N. surveillance at the missile site, according to U.N. officials.

Mr. Gnehm, the number two at the U.S. mission to the United Nations, said that "this is a pattern of behaviour that we have seen before and that we find inexcusable and unacceptable."

"We will respond firmly to Iraqi provocations," he stressed, warning Iraq against making a "miscalculation" as to U.S. intentions concerning the lifting of U.N. sanctions after Washington's raised its final objections to implementation of the oil-for-food deal.

Mr. Gnehm recalled that Iraq would remain under U.N. sanctions despite the oil-for-food deal.

"Those sanctions are not going to be lifted any time soon with this kind of behaviour that we have seen Iraq displaying today," the U.S. envoy said, stressing there was "no connection" between the two issues. UNSCOM Chairman Rolf Ekeus, the top U.N. disarmament inspector, told reporters after meeting with the 15-member U.N. Security Council that "it is clear that we are in a situation where Iraq is blocking US from carrying out our obligations" in violation of U.N. resolutions.

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These include the dismantling and destruction of all its missiles with a range of more than 150 kilometres. The U.N. arms inspectors say the analysis in New York would help verify the number of missiles which Iraq claims to have destroyed unilaterally and establish whether the parts are Russian.

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## Senior senator urges quick confirmation

(Continued from page 1)

House suggested that the nominees may be confirmed with relative ease.

In a written statement, Senate majority leader Trent Lott of Mississippi praised Mr. Cohen's nomination in particular but also welcomed those of Ms. Albright and Mr. Lake.

Even Senator Jesse Helms, an ornery arch-conservative who has held up Clinton ambassadorial appointees in the Foreign Relations Committee he chairs, held out an olive branch on Thursday.

"I believe it is a certainty that all four of the nominees will be viewed favourably by most senators," said Mr. Helms, who just won re-election in a hotly contested race in North Carolina.

Israel and Egypt on Friday welcomed President Clinton's choices for secretary of state and defence secretary and voiced confidence the new administration will help advance Mideast peace.

In Israel, both Ms. Albright and Mr. Cohen were described as outspoken supporters of the Jewish state. Two mass circulation dailies, Yediot Ahronot and Maariv, both ran frontpage headlines Friday saying Ms. Albright was good for Israel (see page 12).

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a statement that the appointments "reflect the continuation of the U.S. policy of friendship towards Israel and will enable the two countries to work together to advance the Israeli-Arab peace process."

Netanyahu spokesman David Bar Ilan praised Ms. Albright as having a "deep understanding of the problems of the Middle East."

Asked about the cabinet appointments, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat would only say he had "no opposition" to Mr. Clinton's choices.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa said he looked forward to working with Ms. Albright. Mr. Musa said he hoped the new administration would remain an honest broker in the peace talks, Egypt's official Middle East News Agency said.

The U.N. insists the full trade embargo can only be lifted once the U.N. Special Commission on Disarming Iraq (UNSCOM) is satisfied that Iraq no longer possesses the means to manufacture weapons of mass destruction.

The United States meanwhile warned Iraq against blocking the work of U.N. arms inspectors, saying that Washington would respond "firmly" to any provoca-

tion. But in comments to reporters at the U.N., U.S. Ambassador Edward Gnehm said that Iraq's refusal to transfer missile parts to New York would not lead to Washington attempting to prevent the resumption of Iraqi oil exports.

Asked whether the missile issue would prevent Iraqi oil from flowing this week, Mr. Gnehm responded: "No."

Iraqi authorities last month suddenly refused permission for the transfer to New York for analysis of more than 70 parts, including engines, from an Iraqi missile site, after allowing roughly 70 others to be moved to UNSCOM's Baghdad monitoring centre.

The remaining Scud parts are under U.N. surveillance at the missile site, according to U.N. officials.

Mr. Gnehm, the number two at the U.S. mission to the United Nations, said that "this is a pattern of behaviour that we have seen before and that we find inexcusable and unacceptable."

"We will respond firmly to Iraqi provocations," he stressed, warning Iraq against making a "miscalculation" as to U.S. intentions concerning the lifting of U.N. sanctions after Washington's raised its final objections to implementation of the oil-for-food deal.

Mr. Gnehm recalled that Iraq would remain under U.N. sanctions despite the oil-for-food deal.

"Those sanctions are not going to be lifted any time soon with this kind of behaviour that we have seen Iraq displaying today," the U.S. envoy said, stressing there was "no connection" between the two issues. UNSCOM Chairman Rolf Ekeus, the top U.N. disarmament inspector, told reporters after meeting with the 15-member U.N. Security Council that "it is clear that we are in a situation where Iraq is blocking US from carrying out our obligations" in violation of U.N. resolutions.

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## Jordanian delegation ends 'successful' visit to Iraq

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation representing the Jordan Exporters Society (JES) returned home on Thursday at the end of a several-day visit to Iraq, during which they held talks with ministers of trade, industry, mineral resources, finance, agriculture, health and deputy governor of the Iraqi Central Bank, in addition to presidents and members of the federations of Iraqi Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

Head of the delegation Bassam Al Saket, who is also JES president, described the visit as successful.

Addressing a press conference, Dr. Saket said the Iraqi side has called for expanding the commercial trade protocol with Jordan to include other non-traditional goods.

He said the Iraqis welcomed the participation of Jordanian businessmen and exporters in the bidding process for supplies to Iraq, under the memorandum of understanding concluded between Iraq and the United Nations.

Dr. Saket said exports to Iraq will be governed by proper bidding procedures and specific conditions, including certain specifications, and prices, as prescribed by a special United Nations commission. The Iraqi side has pledged to offer the necessary facilities to Jordanians wishing to set up joint ventures in Iraq or wishing to export Jordanian construction materials, he noted.

The Iraqi and Jordanian sides stressed the importance of barter trade,

although it was not covered by the trade protocols concluded between both countries. They also agreed that economic sanctions imposed on Arab and non-Arab countries contradicts the principles of free trade, as enshrined in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) agreements. Dr. Saket did not rule out the possibility of using Jordan's land transport fleet, which includes 8,000 trucks, to carry goods from Aqaba to Iraq, saying the U.N. resolution on oil for food has restricted imports to Iraq through the Iraqi port of Umm Qasr and Aqaba.

While in Iraq, the Jordanian delegation signed with Iraqi counterparts minutes of joint cooperation in a bid to further enhance ties of economic cooperation between the two countries.

## Gulf tariff unification is unlikely, say analysts

DUBAI (R) — Tariff unification among Gulf Arab states would jump-start free trade with other economic blocs, but the priorities of regional governments are so far apart that analysts doubt they will take the plunge any time soon.

Differences among the member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) — Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait and Oman — have blocked a tariff agreement almost since the political and economic alliance was founded in 1981.

And economists say that when GCC leaders meet for their annual summit in the Qatari capital of Doha on Saturday, the scheduled talks to forge ahead with a tariff accord are unlikely to bear fruit.

"They agreed to unify their tariffs in principle 15 years ago and until now it has never materialised," leading Saudi

economist Ihsan Bu-Hulaiga told Reuters.

"At the summit on Saturday they may agree on the tariffs but it is not expected that such an agreement will be concluded because views are still different on this issue," Standard customs tariffs among the GCC states range from four to 12 per cent, with special tariffs for some industries.

"There is a protective tariff in Saudi Arabia of 20 per cent. In Kuwait the same tariff is 50 per cent. The UAE doesn't have one at all," one Gulf economist said.

A common rate of between six and eight per cent has been discussed as the most likely if and when duties are unified. Analysts say the main obstacles to unifying tariffs are the divergent economic priorities of the Gulf states.

They said regional economic heavyweight Saudi Arabia, which is striving towards industrialisation and seeking

to move from import-substitution to an export economy, prefers higher tariffs to support its infant industries.

"They want to make it worthwhile for their industries to compete locally, otherwise the competitiveness of the local products will be undermined by cheap imports," Mr. Bu-Hulaiga said.

Other Gulf states like the UAE — with the lowest tariffs in the Gulf — instead focus on becoming a trade centre. The tiny Gulf island state of Bahrain — the least wealthy in the region — depends on tariff revenues to bolster state income, analysts said.

"The tariff issue is touching the fundamental economic policies of each of the GCC states," Bu-Hulaiga said.

Analysts say another stumbling block is the lack of a common classification for goods to help decide on unified tariffs.

The tariffs issue is a key

hurdle in the way of a free trade deal with the European Union (EU) which could open lucrative European markets to cheap petrochemicals and other goods from the Gulf.

GCC and EU foreign ministers agreed in April to set a deadline of no more than two years to complete a free trade accord between the two trading partners — an issue under discussion for more than 10 years. The issue also represents an impediment to the Gulf's full integration into the World Trade Organisation, analysts said.

"A unified tariff will be of immense economic benefit to the GCC countries," an economist said. "They need to do it."

While the GCC acknowledges hurdles remain, it said a summary of alternatives on how to unify tariffs would be presented at the Doha summit and could help clinch an accord.

## Sudan says family makes fraction of what they need

KHARTOUM (AP) — A Sudanese family makes less than 10 per cent of what it needs to survive, a government committee says.

The average monthly salary in Sudan stands at 30,000 Sudanese pounds (\$20), but a family of five needs at least 11 times that — or 339,000 pounds (\$230) — to cover expenses, a report by parliament's labour and public administration committee says.

"There should be an immediate change in salaries so as to cover the cost of living," the committee recommended in a report carried Friday by Sudan's official news agency.

Sudan's economy is in dire straits, burdened by a 13-year civil war that costs the government an estimated \$1 million a day.

Foreign aid has all but ended since Lt.-Gen. Omar Al Bashir seized power in a military coup in 1989 and installed an Islamic regime.

Prices have risen rapidly, making it difficult for workers on fixed incomes to pay for necessities.

The committee said in the report that the low salaries "have aggravated the suffering of workers."

## Cypriot minister urges spending curbs

NICOSIA (R) — Cyprus's Finance Minister Christodoulos Christodoulou on Thursday urged Cypriots to curb free-spending lifestyles, and tighten their belts, if they wanted the island's economy to remain healthy.

"We can't have everything from the state without giving as well — so as not to deprive ourselves of waste, over consumption and insatiable exhibitionism," Mr. Christodoulou said with a touch of sarcasm during his annual budget speech to parliament.

With low unemployment and inflation levels which have not exceeded three per cent in years, the island has a

robust economy but officials have expressed concerns of late that free-spending habits could spur inflation and widen trade deficits.

"We have to list our priorities and get rid of the mentality to easily adopt every demand at the expense of public revenue and the limited resources of national economy," said the minister, known for his bluntness. The budget, which was tabled to the house in September, forecast a deficit increase of almost 14 per cent higher than projected figures for 1996.

The fiscal deficit is expected to reach 175 million pounds (\$371.8 million) in 1997 — 4

per cent of gross domestic product — compared with a deficit of 120 million in 1996, he said.

Nominal GDP growth will reach 3.5 per cent in 1997 from 2.5 expected this year. Unemployment is expected to be 2.9 per cent, a slight drop from this year's expectation of 3.0 per cent.

Inflation in 1997 is expected at 2.8 per cent compared to 3.0 per cent this year.

The prospective EU member has launched a drive to harmonise its economy with that of the trade bloc, with which it hopes to start accession talks in early to mid-1998.

## IEA increases estimate for oil demand

PARIS (AFP) — The International Energy Agency (IEA) on Friday said it had raised its estimate for global oil demand in the fourth quarter by 100,000 barrels per day to 73.9 million bpd, due to stronger than expected demand from the United States and Japan.

In its monthly report, the IEA said forecasts for 1997 remain unchanged at 73.7 million bpd, an increase of 1.9 million bpd or 2.7 per cent over this year. The new estimate for the fourth quarter offsets a fall in revised figures for oil use by OECD countries in the third quarter, leaving the estimate for all countries in 1996 as a whole unchanged at 71.8 million bpd, the report said. The third quarter consumption figure for OECD countries was revised down by 200,000 bpd to 40.6 million bpd. In November the production of crude oil in OECD countries was 26.14 million bpd, slightly up from October's 26.07 million bpd. On Nov. 27 in Vienna, OPEC ministers decided to extend for six months the organisation's current ceiling on output at 25.033 million bpd despite the agreement permitting Iraq to resume exports in the near future.

The IEA has revised its estimate of demand for OPEC oil, including stocks, upwards by 200,000 bpd to 26.2 million bpd for the fourth quarter. Its estimate for the first quarter of next year is unchanged at 26.5 million bpd.

## REUTERS

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### The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLG	FRF
US Dollar	1.5589	0.6189	1.3179	112.60	1.3557	1532.81	1.7498	8.2857	
DE Mark	0.6411	1.0000	0.3964	0.8448	72.19	0.8686	982.18	1.1218	3.3771
GB Sterling	1.6159	2.5202	1.0000	2.1252	181.47	2.1907	2475.54	2.8261	8.5046
CHF Franc	0.7584	1.1848	0.4699	1.0000	85.59	1.0297	1162.19	132.87	4.0014
JP Yen	0.0089	1.3838	0.5490	1.1672	1.0000	1.2029	13.60	155.21	4.6750
CA Dollar	0.7378	1.1342	0.4438	0.8568	1.20	1.0000	1124.34	1.2716	3.8425
IT Lira	0.0007	1.0166	0.4032	0.8857	1363.14	0.8834	1.0000	11.40	1.4330
NL Guilder	0.3718	0.8910	0.3536	0.7519	84.34	0.7747	878.19	1.0000	3.0109
FR Franc	0.1899	0.2961	0.1174	0.24616	21.36	0.2573	33.20	33.2000	1.0000

Energy		
Oil	Last	Previous
Brent	24.80	24.75
W. Texas	24.95	24.75
Bony	24.80	24.75
Dubai	21.95	21.75
UL Gas	216.00	216.00

Mid-East Currencies					
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
SA Riyal	0.2668	0.4162	0.16508	0.35111	30.0526
AE Dirham	0.2723	0.42497	0.16849	0.35861	30.5843
KW Dinar	3.3367	5.20833	2.06569	4.39367	376.081
BH Dinar	0.3770	0.414079	1.6415	3.49284	296.564
CY Pound	2.1167	3.3026	1.3097	2.7844	238.373

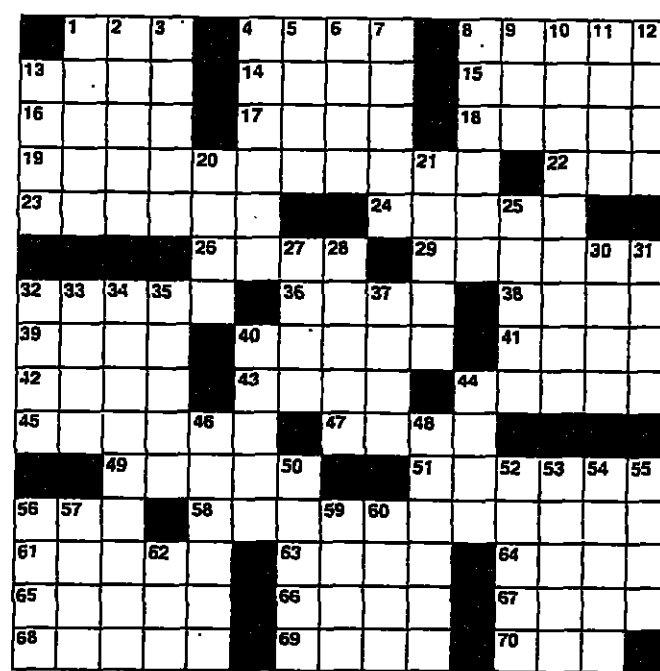
Metal Prices		
Metal	Bid	Offer
Gold (oz)	387.7	388.1
Silver (oz)	4.75	4.77
Platinum (oz)	372.5	373.5
Al (3 Months)	1528	1530
CU (3 Months)	2198	2203
Zinc (3 Months)	1068	1071
Lead (3 Months)	690	692
Ni (3 Months)	6870	6890

Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)					
Cncy	Month	3 Months	6 Months	9 Months	1 Year
USD	5.62	5.44	5.43	5.53	5.80
GBP	6.09	6.27	6.45	6.62	6.76
JPY	0.28	0.29	0.36	0.40	0.50
DEM	3.16	2.93	2.93	2.95	2.98
FRF	2.93	3.30	3.32	3.33	3.34
CHF	2.00	2.03	2.08	1.87	2.12
ITL	7.36	7.02	6.74	6.50	6.43

Main Equity Indices					
Bourse	Index	Value	Chng	% Chng	High
New York	DOW JONES	6422.94	-19.75	-0.31	6443.07
New York	S&P 500	9	0	0	9
London	FT-SE 100	4074.8	29.6	0.73	4076
Tokyo	Nikkei 225	20943.9	283.99	1.37	20975.5
Paris	CAC 40	2314.43	5.78	0.25	2318.52
Frankfurt	DAX	2906.18	40.11	1.4	2914.51

## THE Daily Crossword

- ACROSS
- 1 Resinous secretion
  - 4 Cruising
  - 8 Stately
  - 13 Scarlett's home
  - 14 Trade
  - 15 Harden: var.
  - 16 Of the ear
  - 17 Endow
  - 18 Marble markings
  - 19 Eugene O'Neill play
  - 22 Seine
  - 23 Certain
  - 24 Fishermen
  - 25 Street show
  - 26 Flying prefix
  - 29 A state capital
  - 32 Perfect
  - 36 Ended
  - 38 Far off: pref.
  - 39 Following
  - 40 Comedian, — Martin
  - 41 Ireland
  - 42 Corn tortilla
  - 43 Biblical weed
  - 44 Mountain nymph
  - 45 Princely family of Europe
  - 47 Trolley
  - 49 Hungarian composer
  - 51 Lariats
  - 56 "— was going to..."
  - 58 Dickens novel
  - 61 Picture puzzle
  - 63 — monster
  - 64 Low female voice
  - 65 Reliance
  - 66 Sammy Davis' "Yes —"
  - 67 Observe
  - 68 Entertaining tales
  - 69 Meaningful progress
  - 70 Make a mistake



by Florence C. Adler

Saturday's Puzzle solved:

ATTIC	DAN	CHARD
LARVA	RDA	AUGER
DRAIN	JACKKNIFE	
ASPENS	PRIE	LEA
DONATED	DERM	
TAL	NEWS	SHE
AMIA	BLE	ACORN
CORRALS	ATLANTA	
TRAIL	COFFEES	
ELL	HAIG	ASH
ROSS	OVERLAP	
ALA	PAIR	SIESTA
BELLY	FLOP	NEPAL
BASIL	LIE	EVITA
INANE	ACT	RETIN

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- DOWN
- 1 Shaping machine
  - 2 "Tempest" sprite
  - 3 Hiding place
  - 4 Recommend

- 5 Clairvoyant
- 6 Lenient
- 7 — boy (acolyte)
- 8 Venerate
- 9 Wind dir.
- 10 King Arthur's wife
- 11 English composer
- 12 For fear that
- 13 Carry
- 20 Russian sea
- 21 Chaplain
- 25 Become a member
- 27 Tribunal of prelates
- 28 Public
- 30 Director Kazan
- 31 Tear
- 32 "— each life some rain..."
- 33 Term of affection
- 34 King Arthur's sword
- 35 Expiate
- 37 Always

- 40 Pilfer
- 44 Leave out
- 46 Phantoms
- 48 Thoroughgoing
- 50 Inflexible
- 52 Alert
- 53 Doorkeeper
- 54 Flower
- 55 Traffic sign
- 56 Ostentatious
- 57 Antitoxins
- 59 Immoral practice
- 60 Distinctive style
- 62 Ship letters

## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



## Mutt'n'Jeff



## HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) You have good creative ideas today, however, use care in pursuing them and study new data which will help you to become prosperous. Later tonight you will be able to consult with those in authority and gain insight.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Study into today whatever is causing you difficulty at your home and clear it up right away so there won't be any lingering effects. Make the days ahead much brighter and thereby make your efforts more successful.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Communicate well with long-time fellow associates and get much which is constructive well-handled. Later this evening will be the time for you and your loved ones to get out of town and spend special time together.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Don't risk and large sums of money today if you want a favour from another fellow associate who has the technical knowledge to make your career activities successful. Later this evening will be good to rest at home with loved ones.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Home affairs can be annoying today, so get out and delve into amusements which have proved satisfying in previous days. This evening can be quite special for your loved ones, if you plan some interesting recreational activities.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Get into some intimate tasks today for your fellow associates and gain the backing you need instead of dashing around foolishly, like a chicken with its head cut off. Later this evening meet with a bigwig and come to some conclusion.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) A good friend today will help you to gain some ambition, so listen to what he or she has to say and make the best use of this information. If you want to enjoy a group affair, include others like yourself.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Listen to the advice today of older and more wise individuals for any outside activities which you plan to participate in. Take it tonight with your loved ones and you can have a relaxing time together and relieve the pressure of business.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) You can expand today if you are enthused and positive in your actions, which will be noticed by those who can make your career activities successful. Attend a nice party in the evening with your mate and thereby it can be romantic.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Avoid a stubborn friend today who wastes your time and keeps you from handling important practical affairs in the days ahead. This evening can be good for meeting with close friends and going to recreational location for fun.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) A fellow associate will gladly go along with you in some enterprise today, provided you don't call in some expert who has different ideas and procedures. Later this evening will be fun for your loved ones, if you are patient.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Don't run off to new interests today, so that you can build up your public reputation and feel more secure in your business projects. Later this evening make this time good for your loved ones and thereby avoid any difficulties.

Birthstone of December: Turquoise — Zircon.







## FIFA boss sees trouble at 2002 World Cup

ROME (R) — FIFA chairman Joao Havelange hit out on Friday over the headaches of staging the 2002 World Cup in Japan and South Korea, saying the split was a political decision and politics never suited sport.

In an interview with the Italian newspaper Gazzetta Dello Sport, soccer's top official also confirmed that FIFA could pull football out of the Olympics after a perceived snub to world soccer's governing body at this year's Atlanta Games.

"Everyone knows by now that organising (the World Cup) jointly between Korea and Japan was an international political decision," Havelange was quoted as saying.

"But what is good for politics is almost always bad for sport," he said in Barcelona, where FIFA's executive committee is due to meet at the weekend.

Its 33-point agenda will include the 2002 World Cup, at which Japan will host the final and South Korea the opening match.

Havelange, a Brazilian, said the tournament was proving an organisational problem.

"How do you divide up the teams? Everybody is going to want to see Brazil, Italy, Argentina and Germany and maybe even Nigeria," he said. "It's not going to be easy to strike a balance in the draw for the groups."

And where do you organise it (the draw)? Perhaps we should do it on a boat in the sea that separates the two countries."

FIFA's executive committee will also consider a proposal to abolish the Olympic soccer tournament, which predates the World Cup by 30 years, and instead introduce an under-23 world championship.

Throwing his weight behind the idea, Havelange said soccer had gained nothing in financial terms from the Atlanta Games.

"If it continues to be marginalised, yes," Havelange said when asked if soccer could go from the Olympic programme.

"The tournament in the United States was played everywhere except in Atlanta, not even one match there. Soccer pulled in 1.4 million spectators, more than the other sports put together and it got nothing in return."

Havelange said the proposed under-23 tournament would be played among 24 or 32 teams in the year before the Olympics "and not necessarily in the same country."

"The best 16 would qualify for the games. In that way, under FIFA's management, you could earn money to share out among all the participants. And the Olympics would also have its soccer tournament but with the dignity of other team sports," he said.

## British man plans record-breaking run round world

LONDON (R) — A British man plans to run round the world to create two new records and return at the turn of the century, the Greenpeace environmental lobby group said on Thursday.

Robert Garside, nicknamed "The Running Man", plans to leave London on Saturday and try to become the first person to run round the world and to cover the furthest distance ever run.

His world run is being supervised by the Guinness Book of Records and he will raise money for Greenpeace.

"I am going to complete this run successfully, I have made up my mind to do it and I will. Running is my life and this is the ultimate challenge," he said.

Garside completed a test run of over 2,000 km across Southern Africa earlier this year.

He intends to run 33,000 miles (54,000 km) on five continents and in 53 countries and return to Britain three years later on millennium night, New Year's eve 1999.

He plans to average 350-400 km a week and hopes to raise two million pounds (\$3.25 million) for Greenpeace.

## New Bull takes charge in victory over Clippers

CHICAGO (R) — A new Bull took charge on Thursday as Jason Caffey scored 13 of his career-high 23 points in a 21-4 fourth-quarter run that pushed Chicago past the Los Angeles Clippers 114-96.

Scottie Pippen scored 25 points and Michael Jordan added 20 for the Bulls, who improved their NBA-best record to 17-1 and remained unbeaten in seven games at home.

But it was Caffey who provided the spark for Chicago, who led 62-57 at halftime. The second-year forward from Alabama topped his previous high of 13 points by shooting 11-of-13 from the field in 24 minutes off the bench.

"I think everybody has been waiting for him to show his talent on the basketball court," Jordan said. "He has the ability to play with that type of intensity."

Pooh Richardson scored 20 points. Loy Vaught had 19 and Brent Barry contributed 17 for Los Angeles, which led early in the third quarter but could not keep the Bulls down.

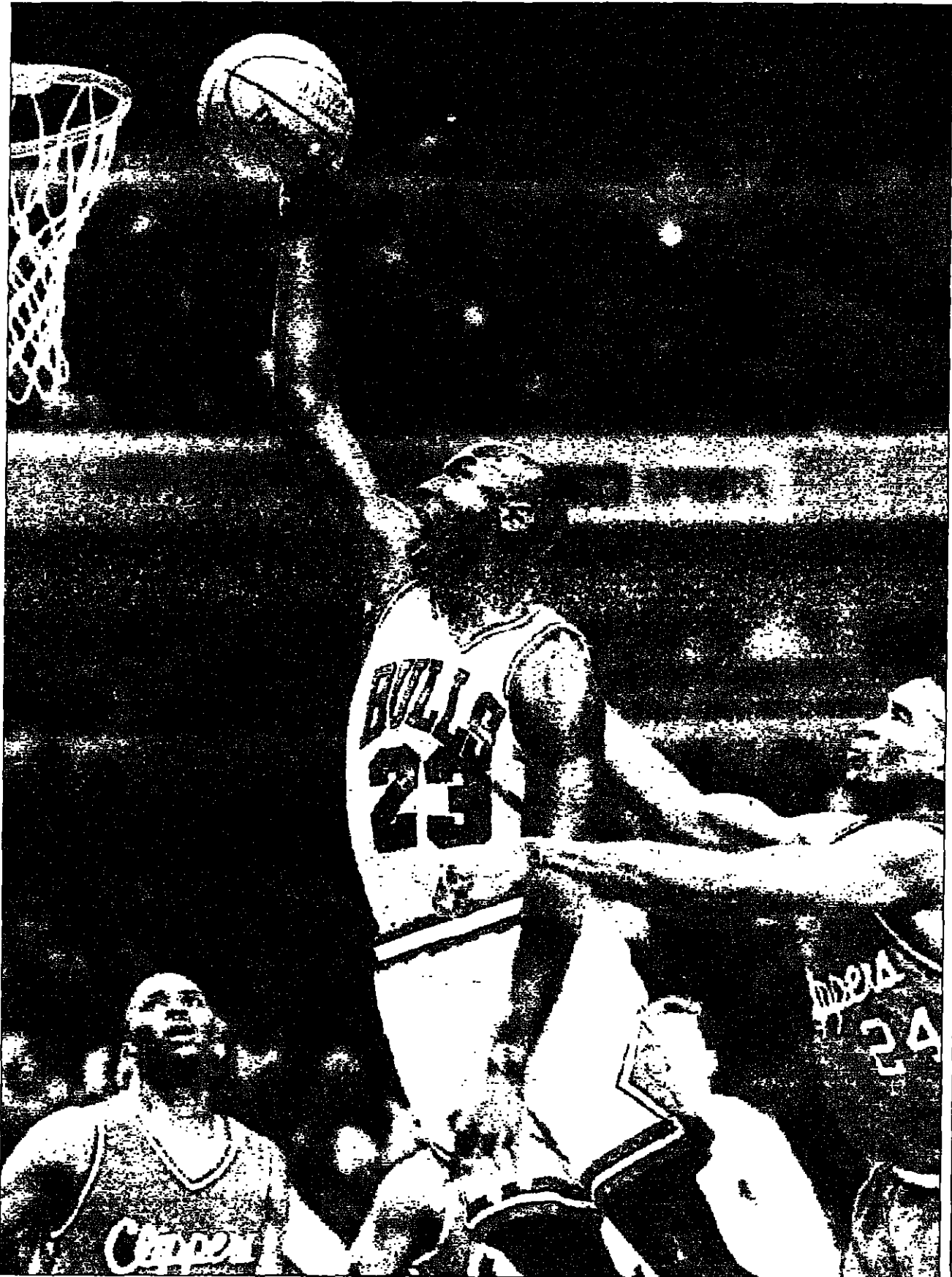
"We accomplished a lot the first three quarters, playing their starters even," said Clippers coach Bill Fitch. "Then their bench took the game away."

"It seemed like Caffey just got in a zone there at the end," Vaught said. "We had a very difficult time trying to control him. It shows you how much talent they have there on that team."

In Toronto, 40-year-old John Long hit a jumper with nine seconds left to complete a comeback from a 17-point third-quarter deficit as the Toronto Raptors rallied for an 82-80 victory over the Washington Bullets.

Walt Williams scored 29 points and Doug Christie added 19 with 11 rebounds, seven assists and a career-high six steals for Toronto, which won its third consecutive home game.

Long, who signed last week, put Toronto ahead 81-80 by drilling a jumper from the right corner. He last played in the NBA during the 1990-91 season and was with Magic Johnson's travel-



Chicago Bulls' Michael Jordan (C) shoots in front of Los Angeles Clippers' Terry Dehere (R) as Clippers' Lorenzen Wright (L) looks on in the first quarter of game in Chicago, December 5. Chicago defeated the LA Clippers 114-96 (Reuters photo)

ling All-Star Team this year before being acquired.

"Fortunately, it came to me. I had it and I made it," Long said. "You always have to be mentally ready so when you get put into that situation, you feel capable of making the shot."

"My main goal has been to learn the plays as fast as I can."

In Dallas, the Mavericks used a late fourth-quarter run to put down the Philadelphia 76ers 106-102.

Jimmy Jackson scored 21 points and Derek Harper added a season-high 20 for Dallas, which has alternated losses and wins for the last six games.

Rookie Allen Iverson had a season-high 36 points and 11 assists but committed seven turnovers for Philadelphia, which has dropped four of its last five road games.

After Iverson hit a jumper to give the 76ers a 92-90 lead with three minutes remaining in the

fourth quarter, Jackson made a reverse layup to tie the game and ignite a 9-0 run.

In Denver, Isaiah Rider scored 15 of his 21 points in the fourth quarter as the Portland Trail Blazers overcame a career night by Bryant Stith to down the Denver Nuggets 115-104.

Kenny Anderson scored 26 points and Arvydas Sabonis added 22 for Portland, which has won seven of its last 10 games. Stith scored a career-high 37 points for Denver, which has lost five straight games under new coach Dick Motta.

Portland Rookie Jermaine O'Neal, 18, became the youngest player to appear in an NBA game when he came in at 7:24 of the second quarter. He made his only

shot of the field, committed a personal foul and had two turnovers in three minutes.

In Seattle, Shawn Kemp scored 17 of his 21 points in the first half as the SuperSonics raced to a 22-point lead on the way to a 117-86 demolition of the Minnesota Timberwolves.

Kemp grabbed 15 rebounds. Larry Stewart scored 19 points and Gary Payton had 18 and seven assists for Seattle, which defeated Minnesota for the 23rd consecutive time.

Tom Gugliotta scored 27 points on 10-of-14 shooting and grabbed 10 rebounds for Minnesota, which played without injured forward Kevin Garnett and Guard James Robinson.

## Vicenza meet Inter in top-of-table clash

ROME (R) — Vicenza, Italy's surprise league leaders, aim to stretch their advantage when they entertain nearest rivals Internazionale on Sunday.

Vicenza are one point ahead of Inter, with Juventus and Bologna a further point behind.

Since taking the lead two weeks ago, Vicenza have played down their championship prospects.

"I don't want to denigrate my side's achievement but I'm a realist and I know that the really strong sides in this championship have yet to play to their best," coach Francesco Guidolin said.

But they are unbeaten in seven league games and recently eliminated AC Milan from the Italian cup, so they are very much the team in form.

Inter, by contrast, disappointed their fans in their last three league games in which they were held to draws by Fiorentina, AC Milan and Cagliari.

Inter central defender Massimo Paganin acknowledged that Sunday's game represented a crucial test for his side's overall championship prospects.

"Good, on Sunday we'll see if our recent draws were just the result of having played too many league and cup matches," he said.

"This is an important test. It will be a very tactical match between two sides who play a very tight, close game."

Vicenza will be at full strength, with Uruguayan Marcelo Otero leading the attack alongside Roberto Murgita and former Lazio striker Alessandro Iannuzzi.

Inter will be without suspended French defender Jocelyn Angloma and injured Chilean striker Ivan Zamorano.

Marco Branca joins Frenchman Yuri Djorkaeff in attack and experienced Giuseppe Bergomi replaces Angloma in defence.

## Henman shows nerve to earn clash with Becker

MUNICH (R) — Britain's Tim Henman displayed the nerves of an accomplished gambler to reach the semifinals of the Casino Tournament of tennis on Thursday — the lucrative grand slam cup.

Henman showed a killer instinct and experience beyond his 22 years to defeat American Wimbledon finalist Malivai Washington 7-6 6-3 in 75 minutes, earning \$431,250 in the process.

Henman, who gained a place in the tournament only after late withdrawals, now takes on local hero and Australian Open champion Boris Becker in Saturday's semifinals where \$812,500 will be at stake. The winner will get a shot at the top prize of \$1.625 million.

The Wimbledon quarter-finalist has now more than doubled his prize money for the year with two victories at the Munich tournament which brings together the best performers from the grand slams — Wimbledon, and the U.S., French and Australian Opens.

But, asked if he was starting to think about the huge cash on offer, the Englishman said. "Obviously I'm aware of it. I played for a lot of money today, make no bones about it."

"I think you look at it from a tennis point of view. I play Boris Becker in his home town over five sets. I don't think it can get much better than that. Maybe to play him at Wimbledon on centre court but that's probably his home as well."

Becker booked his place in the last four with a straightforward 6-4 6-1 defeat of Swiss Jakob Hlasek. Even though the German is in a different class to Henman, he will be taking nothing for granted in front of his home fans.

"Once you get to the stage of playing a semifinal, whoever you are going to play has won two tough matches already. They must be in good form," Becker said. "The name doesn't matter anymore. It comes down to who is better on the court. It is going to be a tough match."

Henman is the first British player to contest the \$6 million cup, the richest tournament in the game. But the Englishman showed composure in a tight first set which he clinched 7-3 in the tiebreak.

Neither player gave away anything in the first 12 games when both were serving and volleying well on the fast indoor surface.

But when the set went to a tiebreak, Henman served with authority and hit the ball with great pace. Washington's nerve seemed to wilt under the pressure. He served a double fault to give Henman a 6-3 lead and set point.

The American then hit a forehand wide in the next point to hand the Briton the set after 40 minutes. After that Henman ran away with the match, breaking Washington's serve in the second and fourth games of the second.

At one point Henman hit a serve of over 213 kph. The Briton did drop his serve in the seventh game, but it was irrelevant to the outcome of the match which he clinched when Washington hit a forehand return out of court.

"I thought I was going to be a reserve for the week but I had my fingers crossed," Henman said. "Now that I've got into the tournament, I'm taking advantage of it."

Becker completed a routine day's work to make sure of his \$681,250 Christmas bonus. The three-times Wimbledon champion took just 58 minutes to defeat Hlasek who came out of retirement to play here.

Becker, who lives just a short drive from Munich's Olympic arena, has a chance to earn more money than Henman. He gets \$250,000 for just turning up since he has won a grand slam this year. The German can take home \$1.375 million if he wins the tournament.

## McCall pleads guilty to drug charge

CHICAGO (AP) — Oliver McCall, scheduled to fight Lennox Lewis in February for the vacant WBC heavyweight title, pleaded guilty Thursday to one count of possession of a controlled substance.

Cook county circuit judge James Lynn placed McCall, 31, on 18 months probation, according to Suzanne Rollier, a spokeswoman for the Cook County State's attorney.

McCall, of Collinsville, Virginia, was charged in Chicago on July 26 with possession of marijuana and cocaine. Police said they stopped the former WBC heavyweight champion while he was driving his car illegally down a bike path near Lake Michigan.

McCall spent time at a North Carolina drug rehabilitation center in August. At the time his manager, Jimmy

Adams, said McCall was being "Drugs took over his life, and now he's trying to take his life back." Adams said in August.

McCall won the WBC heavyweight title with a second-round knockout of England's Lewis in 1994.

After a successful title defence against Larry Holmes in April 1995, McCall lost to Frank Bruno in September 1995.

### NBA RESULTS

Toronto	82	Washington	80
Chicago	114	LA Clippers	96
Dallas	106	Philadelphia	102
Portland	115	Denver	104
Seattle	117	Minnesota	86

<b>TODAY AT</b>	<b>CINEMA TEL: 634144</b> <b>PHILADELPHIA</b> <b>PHILADELPHIA 1</b> <b>TWISTER</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 <b>PHILADELPHIA 2</b> <b>PAMELA ANDERSON...in</b> <b>BARB WIRE</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	<b>CINEMA TEL: 699238</b> <b>PLAZA</b> <b>SEAN CONNERY...in</b> <b>THE ROCK</b> (IN DOLBY STEREO) Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	<b>CINEMA TEL: 677420</b> <b>CONCORD</b> <b>CONCORD "1"</b> <b>INDEPENDENCE DAY</b> (IN DOLBY STEREO) Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:45 <b>CONCORD "2"</b> <b>Robert Redford &amp; Michelle Pfeiffer ... in</b> <b>UP CLOSE &amp; PERSONAL</b> Shows: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	<b>Ammoun Theatre &amp; Cinema TEL: 618274 - 618275</b> Today presents Zawad Weld Awad theatre group in the play entitled <b>Five-Star Government</b> Starring comedians: <b>Mahmoud Saimeh &amp; Hussein Tubeishat</b> play starts 8:30 p.m.	<b>Nabil &amp; Hisham's Theatre TEL: 625155</b> <b>PRESENTS</b> <b>THE SATIRICAL COMEDY</b> <b>Arab Human Rights</b> <b>at 8:30 p.m.</b> Theatre is closed Friday, Saturday & Sunday For reservation please call <b>625155 - 640155</b>
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## 2,000 attend prayers at discreetly opened Marwani Mosque

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — More than 2,000 Muslims worshipped Friday in the Marwani Mosque, a new prayer hall in the Haram Al Sharif Complex that had been opened discreetly to avoid provoking Jewish extremists who claim the site for their religion alone.

Friday's turnout was the highest yet at the Marwani Mosque, an underground vault, since it opened three weeks ago after several months of renovations. Worshippers unrolled straw mats and knelt next to huge stone pillars.

The Marwani Mosque, also known as Solomon's Stables, is part of the Al Aqsa Mosque compound, the most sensitive spot in the Israeli-Arab conflict.

One side of the compound is made up of the western wall revered by Jews as the last remnant of

a Jewish temple destroyed by the Romans in 70 A.D. Muslims and Jews watch closely for any changes at the holy site. Its disruptive potential was demonstrated in September when Israel opened a new exit to an archaeological tunnel along the western wall, sparking Palestinian protests in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Seventy-nine people were killed in three days of gun battles.

Jerusalem's Israeli mayor, Ehud Olmert, has claimed that there was a tacit understanding between the Israeli government and the Islamic trust that there would be a trade-off — Israel opens the new exit and the Muslims renovate the underground vault in the compound and turn it into a prayer area. The Islamic trust has denied such a deal existed. However, after the tunnel

protests renovations were accelerated with volunteer labour and \$200,000 in donations from Israeli Arabs, and the vault was quietly opened to worshippers last month.

Two Jewish extremist groups who believe the mosques should be levelled and the Jewish temple rebuilt in their stead, asked the supreme court to block the opening of the prayer hall, but were rebuffed.

One of Friday's worshippers, Jasser Joulani, said the new hall filled him with pride. "This is a good thing for Muslims," said Joulani, a 24-year-old merchant. "It is one step on the path to victory and the establishment of an Islamic state. It is the destruction of Zionism."



RETURNING HOME: Rwandan refugees arrive at a collection point at Sake village near Goma on the border between Rwanda and Zaire. A trickle of refugees are still returning to the border town, en route home to Rwanda after fleeing deeper into Zaire to escape fighting between Zairean rebels and government forces (Reuters photo)

## Israelis fear war, distrust Netanyahu, opinion poll finds

TEL AVIV (R) — Many Israelis believe there is a danger of war with Arab states and do not trust Benjamin Netanyahu as prime minister of the country, according to a Gallup poll published in Israel's Maariv daily on Friday.

Asked if they saw a danger of war between Israel and Arab states, 63 per cent said the danger existed, 29 per cent said it did not and eight per cent did not know.

On the question of whether they trusted Mr. Netanyahu as prime minister, 49 per cent said they did not, 38 per cent trusted him and 13 per cent did not know.

Respondents expressed dissatisfaction with Mr. Netanyahu, who took power in June, on the economic front.

Asked about Mr. Netanyahu's handling of economic issues, only one per cent said they were "very satisfied," 17 per cent were "satisfied," 25 per cent rated it "so-so," 44 per cent said they were "dissatisfied" or "very dissatisfied" and 13 per cent did not know.

Mr. Netanyahu has

promised a big privatisation programme and cuts in Israel's 1997 budget deficit.

Only 23 per cent expressed satisfaction with Mr. Netanyahu's handling of negotiations with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Syria, 28 per cent rated it "so-so," 42 per cent said they were "dissatisfied" or "very dissatisfied," and seven per cent said they did not know.

But the respondents spread blame for tension in the region, with 42 per cent blaming it on Arab states, 24 per cent on Israel's government, 21 per cent on both, and 13 per cent saying they did not know.

Those questioned were evenly divided on whether they supported evacuating the 400 Jewish settlers living amidst 100,000 Palestinians in Hebron from the West Bank town: 42 per cent supported evacuation, 43 per cent opposed and 15 per cent did not know.

The poll was conducted this week and it queried 484 Israeli Jewish adults. It had a 4.5 per cent margin of error.

## West concerned over Iraqi biological arms

GENEVA (R) — Western nations, including the United States, on Friday expressed deep concern over lingering questions about illicit biological weapons activity in Iraq.

But the group of 23 Western countries said that, for the sake of consensus, they were to drop any mention of Iraq from a final statement being issued later in the day by a conference reviewing compliance with the 1972 biological weapons treaty.

In a statement read out by Australia, the Western nations said they closely followed the work of UNSCOM, the United Nations Special Commission. Set up after the 1991 Gulf war, UNSCOM is charged with overseeing the scrapping of Iraq's chemical, biological and ballistic weapons programmes.

"We continue to be very concerned about the information uncovered by UNSCOM. We remain very concerned by the revelations of illicit biological weapons activity, including questions that remain unanswered about dismantlement and destruction of that programme," the group said.

"The commission (UNSCOM) noted in its last report that this biological disarmament process was not yet completed," added the statement, read out by Australia's Ambassador John Campbell.

The Western statement referred to comments by Iraq's delegation which had made clear that retaining any reference to UNSCOM activity would mean no consensus on a final declaration.

It said that, in the interests of reaching consensus, "while reiterating that all members of the conference condemn any non-compliance with the convention's prohibitions and the obligations therein undertaken, we are prepared to agree to the deletion of the language in the report referring to UNSCOM activities."

Iraq's envoy to the Geneva conference took the floor to defend his country, according to Western diplomats.

Experts from many of the 138 states which have ratified the global pact banning biological weapons have taken part in the two-week review conference, held every four years. During the talks, the United States said it suspected 12 countries — including Russia, China and Iraq — of having active biological weapons systems in various stages.

## Sheikh Hamad regrets Bahraini charges

DOHA (AFP) — The Emir of Qatar Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifa Al Thani, on Friday strongly condemned the charges of spying laid by Bahraini authorities against two Qatari citizens.

Sheikh Hamad expressed his "profound regret" over the accusations during a visit to the home of the father of one of the two suspected spies, Fahd Abdullah Al Bakker, the official QNA news agency reported.

Bahrain on Monday announced the arrests of Bakker, 28, described as a Qatari intelligence officer, and Salwa Jassim Mahmoud Fakhri, 33, a Qatari woman he allegedly recruited as a spy.

Doha has denied the accusations.

The two appeared on Wednesday before the state security court, which adjourned the hearing to Dec. 14. They could face the death penalty if found guilty.

Qatar's Interior Ministry has accused the Bahraini authorities of using torture to extract confessions, saying that any verdict would be "null and void." (see page 2).

Manama has said the spying incident has hardened its determination to boycott the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) summit which opens Saturday because of a long-running territorial dispute with Qatar over the Hawar islands which Fakhri allegedly visited to spy on Bahraini military sites.

Bahrain on Friday reiterated that it will boycott the Gulf Arab summit and denied that its foreign minister was in Saudi Arabia for talks aimed at persuading Manama to take part.

"Bahrain has clarified its official position concerning its non-participation in the Doha summit, which starts its work tomorrow," a Bahraini official said.

The official also denied that Bahrain's Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad Ben Mubarak Al Khalifa was in Saudi Arabia.

Organisers of the summit in Doha said earlier that Bahrain's foreign minister and his Qatari counterpart Sheikh Hamad Ben Jassim Al Thani arrived in Saudi Arabia on Friday evening for talks with Saudi leaders.

The Emir of Bahrain, Sheikh Issa Ben Salman Al Khalifa, has said that the decision to boycott the summit was irreversible.

## Israel has spent \$300m on arms expecting war — Post

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel's army has spent nearly \$300 million to stockpile arms and ammunition in preparation for a possible war with Syria, the Jerusalem Post newspaper reported Friday.

The English-language daily quoted unnamed military sources as saying the buildup was designed to "repel any Syrian attack on the Golan Heights," which Israel seized from Syria in the 1967 war.

Tensions with Syria have been mounting since the right-wing government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu came to power in June on a hardline platform of maintaining Israeli sovereignty over the Golan.

A senior defence ministry strategist, meanwhile, told a seminar on the 1967 war that Israel should maintain strict secrecy around its efforts to prepare for a renewal of armed conflict with Syria.

Reserve General Yisrael Tal argued in a rare public appearance that the element of surprise would be critical

in a future war.

"There has to be a fog over the preparedness for war," he told the Tel Aviv conference on Thursday. "We have to adopt this lesson."

An opinion poll published by the Maariv newspaper on Friday showed that 63 per cent of Jewish Israelis fear a new war will erupt between Israel and its Arab neighbours.

Around 45 per cent of those questioned said that Mr. Netanyahu was at least partly responsible for the rising tensions in the region, while 42 per cent blamed the Arab states alone.

The Middle East peace process carried out by Israel's previous Labour government has been virtually frozen since Mr. Netanyahu won the May elections.

The Likud leader has pursued a policy of slowing down the extension of Palestinian autonomy while expanding Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

## Arabs put brave face on Albright as secretary of state...

NICOSIA (AFP) — Arab countries put a brave face on the nomination of Madeleine Albright as the next U.S. secretary of state, expecting her to stick to American policy in the Middle East.

"The positions of Ms. Albright at the United Nations were not personal but reflected the reality of U.S. foreign policy," said Nizar Hamdoun, Iraq's ambassador in New York.

"What is important is not who is minister but the policy decided at the White House and the State Department," said Mr. Hamdoun, whose country has often blasted Ms.

Albright for her tough line on maintaining U.N. sanctions against Iraq.

"We want to see a change toward a more balanced and responsible position, especially towards Iraq," he told the Arab radio station Monte Carlo, following Ms. Albright's appointment on Thursday.

The Syrian ambassador to the United Nations, also interviewed by radio Monte Carlo, was more forthright saying his American counterpart Ms. Albright "clearly has a problem" with the Arabs.

"If she wants to win the confidence of the Arab World, she must make

more effort to understand the cause of the Arabs, especially in restarting the peace process," said Walid Moualllem.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's spokesman, Nabil Abu Rudeina, said he hoped for "continuity of the efforts of the U.S. administration under Presidents Bill Clinton and George Bush to achieve a comprehensive and just peace."

While not expecting changes "in the substance and constants of U.S. policy," Lebanese Foreign Minister Fares Bouez said Ms. Albright had "a special record which... could lead to decisions being taken from

the top and without flexibility."

Mr. Bouez hoped that as secretary of state Ms. Albright would not base her policies "on personal considerations and moods, but on the constants of U.S. policy so that it can maintain its given role in the (Arab-Israeli) peace policy."

The State Department's Middle East coordinator, Dennis Ross, said after Mr. Clinton's appointment of Ms. Albright that U.S. policy on the Middle East is expected to stay the course.

"I would not expect to see any dramatic changes," he said.

"She is already very well familiar with the peace process specifically and with what the approach of the administration has been," Mr. Ross said.

But he suggested that Ms. Albright may establish a strategy of her own in tackling the effort towards a full Middle East peace, a goal that has eluded the United States for decades.

"I would expect that the new secretary of state will want to think through exactly how she defines what she will do and where she will do it," Mr. Ross said.

White House spokesman Michael McCurry said that

Washington would "continue to play the facilitating role that it attempts to play with the parties and encourage them to bridge differences..." and "I am certain that Ambassador Albright will continue to play the kind of active role that Secretary Christopher offered to all of the tracks of the Middle East peace process," said Mr. McCurry.

A comprehensive Middle East peace has been at the top of the agenda of Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who will step down in January. Ms. Albright's nomination must be confirmed by the Senate.

## ...as Israel welcomes her nomination as its first choice

ISRAEL WELCOMED on Friday the nomination of Ms. Albright as the new U.S. secretary of state, considering her the most pro-Israeli of candidates for the post.

"I was charmed by your personality and the genuine friendship you have displayed," Foreign Minister David Levy wrote in a congratulatory message to Ms. Albright after President Clinton announced her nomination, the foreign ministry said.

Mr. Levy praised what he called Ms. Albright's "elegant wisdom and firmness" in representing the

United States and the United Nations.

"I look forward to working closely with you in the spirit of our shared values in order to advance the special and unique relationship between our countries and to bring peace to Israel and the Middle East," he said.

Israeli media quoted senior officials as saying the right-wing government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu felt Ms. Albright was the best choice to replace Warren Christopher as the top U.S. diplomat.

"Of all the possible candi-

dates mentioned, she was the most favourable to Israel," the official was quoted as saying on condition of anonymity.

Israeli commentators also welcomed other key nominations announced Thursday by Mr. Clinton, including former Republican Senator William Cohen as secretary of defence and Sandy Berger as national security adviser.

They note that Mr. Cohen's father was Jewish although the new defence secretary was raised a Christian, and that Mr.

Berger is Jewish and has been linked in the past with the anti-settlement Peace Now movement.

The mass circulation daily Maariv said Ms. Albright's actions at the United Nations should have earned her an "honorary Zionist" award.

Her appointment, the newspaper said, has helped reassure Mr. Netanyahu that "the new Clinton administration will not put pressure on Israel to please the Arab states."

"But she won't either let an Israeli government undermine U.S. policy in the Middle East, based on

maintaining close ties with moderate (Arab) states in order to isolate Iraq," the newspaper wrote.

The English-language Jerusalem Post said Ms. Albright has little direct experience in Middle East diplomacy, but that she was expected to leave intact the team of regional experts headed by Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross.

"At the U.N. it was easy to lecture bad guys, but the higher you go up the ladder, the more one realises that there are tough calls to make when it comes to formulating policy," said the Post's diplomatic corre-

spondent David Makovsky.

He went on to wonder about how the Mr. Netanyahu team will react if Ms. Albright turns her "streak of moralism" against Israel on charges of "violating Palestinian human rights."

Mr. Christopher travelled to Syria 24 times and Israel 27 times during his mandate in a bid to reach a peace accord between Israel and Syria that would build on the accords the Jewish state has reached with the Palestinians and Jordan since 1993.

## COLUMN 8

### Bobbitt ordained

WASHINGTON (AFP) — John Wayne Bobbitt, the ex-marine whose penis was sliced off by his wife and later surgically reattached, was ordained a minister and could officiate weddings in Las Vegas. The ordination took place Wednesday by a universal life church reverend. Bobbitt said he went through it at the suggestion of his agent and because he wants to change his sinful ways.

### Director turns to advertising

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Film Director Spike Lee is opening his own advertising agency in a joint venture with the DDB Needham group, a spokesman for the group said. The director of "Malcolm X" might put his filming skills first to promote Budweiser beer for Anheuser-Busch. The company apparently is seeking to increase its sales among urban African-Americans and Hispanics. Lee has already done publicity spots for Nike and Levi's, and has appeared in promotion campaigns for milk and reading.

### Jackson a hit in the Philippines

MANILA (AFP) — Hundreds of screaming fans mobbed Michael Jackson on Friday during his visit to a government hospital in the southern Manila suburb of Paranaque. Jackson made a half-hour tour through the Paranaque Community Hospital, where he was met outside by more than 500 spectators, mostly children, waiting for a glimpse of the "king of pop." Jackson arrived here late Thursday to a raucous welcome from hundreds of Filipino fans who gathered at the Manila international airport, lined the route of his convoy and met him at the hotel where he was staying.

### Duchess of Kent suffers from condition ME

LONDON (AFP) — The Duchess of Kent is suffering from the debilitating condition ME, her private secretary Nicholas Adamson said Thursday. The duchess, 63, has cancelled all her engagements for the time being. The illness was diagnosed earlier this year but was only publicly confirmed after the duchess did not maintain her annual tradition of presenting the British Telecom Children's awards on Thursday.

### Spaniard gives birth to sextuplets

HUELVA (AFP) — A Spanish woman who drew blanket press coverage after conceiving eight babies has given birth to four boys and two girls by Caesarean section, hospital officials said. The six infants and their mother are all doing well after the one-hour operation late Thursday, the officials at Juan Ramon Jimenez Hospital in the southern town of Huelva said. The biggest baby weighed 1.9 kilograms and the smallest just 700 grammes. All remain in the hospital's intensive care unit. An emergency plan involving 30 people, including paediatricians, anaesthetists, nursing and surgery staff, was set up for the operation but there were no complications. The woman, identified only as Rosario C., had conceived eight foetuses following fertility treatment, becoming the first woman in Spain to carry octuplets. However, she lost one of the babies several weeks ago and another on Wednesday, prompting the decision by doctors to bring forward the birth and carry out a Caesarean. Rosario, 31, was in the 30th week of her pregnancy, the hospital officials said. It was Spain's first case of sextuplets.